

Family

History

Carroll Brown

This history, written
by my father, Paul
C. Hoff - may be of
interest to you.

Mary T. Watkins

A LIFE STORY
AND
RECOLLECTIONS



Paul Taff

OF
PAUL CLIFFORD TAFF

PREFACE

What is the best way to present a logical and complete story of a life? I have given much thought to the problem as I have been faced with the question of whether it is more important to leave a record of my personal history, or a record of my work with my life's activities and developments in which I had a part. Either way, it has been difficult to separate professional and personal activities.

Finally, for a reader's guidance, my history is presented in this order:

Chapter 1. A brief account of my parentage -- mainly the points that had some bearing on my life.

Chapter 2. A detailed chronological story relating to my adulthood and my activities leading to my chosen profession.

A description of my chief contacts and accomplishments in my career, and community activities.

Chapter 3. A brief personal history of my own and my family that I think future generations will appreciate having on record.

Unfortunately, many of my original records cannot be duplicated easily and the forms of many of them make it difficult to prepare a clear orderly and convenient volume. However, I think it is important to include the pertinent available record in reference to my history and experience since this may be the only way to preserve them.

My purpose in writing this story is, first, to leave a record of my personal life for my family for generations to come; second, to leave a history of what I have accomplished in my chosen fields; and third, to give credit to many individual co-workers who had an important bearing on my life. Because of my connection of nearly 70 years with Iowa State University, I have devoted many pages to a few such institutions, barely mentioned others. But to all with whom I was associated, I want to express my appreciation of their help and the tolerance of my immediate family.

Paul C. Taff
Professor Emeritus
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa U.S.A.

Done in the
Year, 1977 A.D.

Chapter 1

EARLY HISTORY OF TAFF FAMILY

What is the first
name given in the
document? Is it
the same as the
first name in the
other document?

EARLY HISTORY OF THE FAMILY

Family Name: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Occupation: _____

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name given in the
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Chapter I

EARLY HISTORY OF TAFF FAMILY

The history of my forbears is not very complete. My father Alexander Taff was born January 1, 1857, in his family home in a small town named Oto, near Madison, Indiana. He had several brothers and sisters, but we knew best only a brother, James Taff, and a sister, Henrietta Taff (Koehler) who lived at Panora, Iowa and died there in the 1940s. Most of the other members of the family were never traced in later years, which leads us to believe there may be unknown relatives scattered in many places today.

Father farmed at home in Indiana early and, as a young man, then worked for a time as a farm hand near Independence, Iowa. Later he went to Illinois and located at Henry and Matamora, near Peoria where he became a photographer and maintained a studio. We still have some of the tin-types and other kinds of photographs he made there. He and my mother were married at Henry in January, 1876. My brother John was born there on December 25, 1877. Later Father gave up photography and worked at well drilling for a while before they moved to Bloomington, Illinois, to farm. After many years of farming and retirement, he died in Ames, Iowa February 8, 1933 and is buried in the Ames Municipal Cemetery.

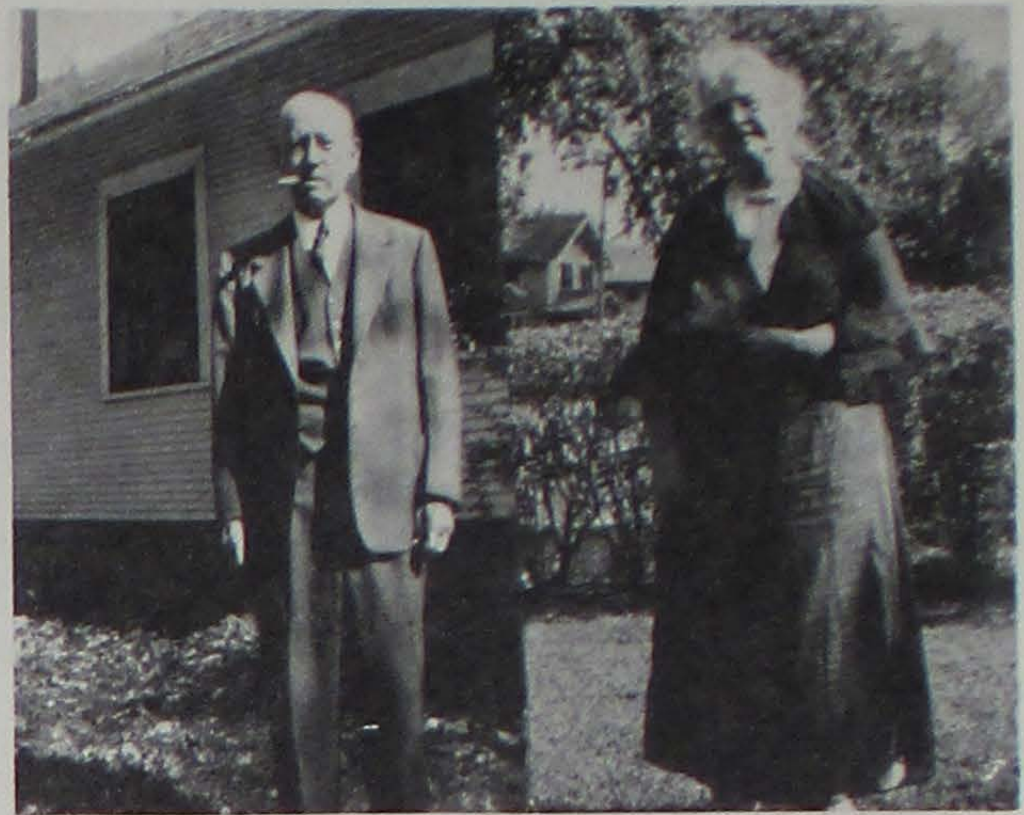
My mother, Anna Kaiser, was born in Saarburg-by-Trier, Germany on November 24, 1853. Early in her life her father died and her mother married another man, also by the name of Kaiser, but no relation of her real father. A few of Mother's relatives still live in Germany and I visited some of them in 1951. My sister, Henrietta, corresponds quite regularly with a cousin in Germany, but we have no other regular contacts than these with Mother's family.

Mother told us children many interesting events of her early life and life in Germany. Her stepfather was a musician and a dancing teacher. Often he had his daughter Anne, who was then five to seven years of age, demonstrate dances for him on a flat-bottomed chair.

Mother's house, which I saw, was built on a side of a mountain, behind which was a small garden, making it necessary for one to go to the third floor of the house to get into her garden - a strange procedure for us children to hear.

When Mother was a girl of seventeen she broke away from her family in Germany and came to America, alone by ship in 1871, to settle with friends in Illinois. There she met and married my father. Her two-weeks' trip to America by boat gave her time for reading and knitting articles such as wool stockings, which we children wore later.

Mother knew no English when she arrived in America but, to her great credit, she learned to speak, read and write English well without any formal instruction. We spoke only English in our family, a custom some of us regret for we learned very little German from her. In this sketch I have made sparse reference to Mother, but I want to give her great credit for being a strong helper, one who did her part in our family well, even to seeing that we children learned and performed our religious duties in the Catholic faith. Mother died January 22, 1947 in Ames, Iowa, and is buried in the Ames Municipal Cemetery.



Gertrude Carberry Taff's father and mother,
James and Mary Ellen Walsh Carberry,
about 1938.

Paul Taff's father and mother,
Alexander and Anna Kelser Taff, 1876.



Paul C. Taff, author of this story,
and his wife, Gertrude Carberry
Taff, 1963.



The Alexander Taff family, about 1898, when they lived in Algona.
From left, front row: Lillian, Mother, Father, Henrietta.
Back row: John and Paul.



The James Carberry family, Panora, about 1912. From left, front row: John, Father, Thomas, Mother, Earl. Middle row: Grace, Emmett. Back row: Rozella, Joseph, Elizabeth, William, Gertrude, Glen and Marie.

How well I remember the trek of five miles over dirt roads on a cold March day to our new farm home! Father loaded Mother and three of us children in the buggy and Mother drove one team while Father and my brother drove the other team and wagon and cow behind, with the wagon full of our goods to a home only Father had seen. Now it seems to me almost unbelievable why we had to do all this in such a primitive way. But to recall -- we were strangers; there was no such thing as a telephone in the country, only in town. Had there been telephones or had we known our neighbors, we would have notified them of our arrival and we would have had plenty of help. As it was, we had to make several trips into Algona to bring all our goods and machinery to the farm.

The buildings on our new farm were adequate, but primitive. The house had one bedroom down and two upstairs, and a kitchen and living room, but no lights, no furnace, no running water, no indoor toilet, no basement. However, we did have a cave for fruit and vegetable storage. The barns and outbuildings were simple, too.

A description of the items we used in the house would require much space. For instance, mother with her keen foresight had worked hard to provide many yards of rag carpet. But for warmth and comfort we had to use threshed-out oat straw under it. That first year we had to find a kindly neighbor who had a good, dry straw-stack where we children spent hours collecting straw for padding. The straw tended to crumble with the treading of many feet over the carpet and had to be changed every year, usually at the time of Mother's fall housecleaning.

Furniture, also, was often a scarce item for a whole house. To solve this need, we used ideas which I often see carried over in girls' 4-H projects, such as using orange crates and boxes, decorated into attractive bedroom uses. Likewise, I recall common lumber many times became much needed benches to take the place of chairs. On the farm, harness for the horses was an item which encouraged us to devise substitutes, and also the repairing of which was always a common rainy day job. The old types of machinery we used were not too durable and were repaired mostly by the farmer, who thus by necessity became the original character of the well-known phrase "jack of all trades." Books could be written about the uses and care of individual items we had on an early farm.

To this end, I am interested in, and glad to see provision being made through such projects as the Living History Farms program near Des Moines. A good start is made there to leave to generations to come, the heritage of how farming of today came-to-be.

The land was very fertile, but much of it was native prairie, unfenced and undrained, making for some difficult farming. However, we considered the five years we spent there pleasant and successful. My sisters and I attended the Gild-bride country school about two miles from our place. Even with severe winters with much snow, I cannot recall ever being taken to or from school, mornings or evenings. We always walked, well bundled up in heavy coats and Mother's hand-knit wool scarves, mittens, and our heavy overshoes.

We had wonderful neighbors, among them the Hopkins, the Zieglers and the Millers and others. They were friendly, neighborly and generous with farming advice and the loan of equipment when we were short of enough to farm the part of

320 acres that were under cultivation. We especially appreciated the help they gave us in harvesting and threshing time.

The first season we had difficulty getting a machine to thresh our grain. All our nearby neighbors belonged to a threshing ring which owned a new and modern steam engine outfit. Their preference for the use of the machine filled up the best of the threshing season. We were promised the next place at the end of the ring's scheduled run and we planned to wait for our turn. But the season was a wet one and we soon knew that much shocked grain would be lost in the field if we waited. Father was greatly worried; we could ill afford such a calamity so he took it upon himself to scout for another machine. Finally, the one he found quite a distance away could come at least two weeks earlier than the machine belonging to the ring so he made the deal for it to come to our place.

This outfit was unique -- it was a horse-driven sweep power thresher. Even in the 1890s few of these machines were left. Four teams of horses walked round and round a circle, each pulling on a bar that meshed with the others in the center to produce the power that operated the machinery which separated the grain heads from the straw. From this center, a solid two-inch iron "tumbling rod" as it was known, extended to the grain separator for the power which beat out grain and moved the straw on to a stack behind.

Any one of us youngsters was fascinated with the idea of standing on the dais in the center to urge the teams along and to see that they pulled evenly and none was too slow or balked. Standing there on the two-foot high box-like structure that housed the combined horse power I learned one of my best lessons in horse behavior. When you were on the dais you looked one way at a time. Usually one horse at a time was apt to be a lazy type. Even when you were inclined to give such an animal special attention, any time your back was turned such a puller would be wise enough to slacken up. This was especially annoying if you happened to have two such horses in teams on opposite sides. We used a long whip with liberal vocal urging, not always in soft language, to keep them moving along evenly. Later when steam engines came into more common use, I served as driver for the water tank for the steam engine. When steam engines came into use, a heavy leather continuous belt transmitted the power from the engine to the separator.

This horse-powered outfit required a man to hand feed the bundles of grain--oats, rye or barley--into the separator with one boy helper on each side of him to cut the twine around the bundles as they were thrown from each side of him, and he fed them into the fast-revolving cylinder that carried them so that the grain could be beaten from the straw and, by an auger, to the wagons. Later I graduated to be a straw stacker, behind a dusty carrier at the back of the separator. Most of the jobs connected with threshing were passed around among the workmen, but not straw-stacking. Each farmer could do the job himself, or he could get one of us boys to do it by offering, usually, fifty cents a day extra. Fifty cents looked very big to me in those days and I often volunteered for this dusty job. After days of the straw carrier, came the blower-type method of disposing of straw after the grain had been threshed out of it. That did away with many boy stackers but not entirely for some farmers wanted a better strawstack than the blower alone could make.

The threshing operation and, in a smaller way, power corn shelling and wood sawing offered definite values to our families in many ways. First, I think of the

cooperation of neighborhood help. Also, I would stress the opportunities this work provided for close acquaintanceship of neighbors who did not have too many opportunities to spend time together. The men and children, and very definitely the farm women, appreciated the gatherings for work and visiting. Some of the most pleasant and lasting memories of my farm experiences relate to the acquaintance and cooperation made in farm operations in early days.

Threshing time was built around several traditions which had many social values. The typical farm produced enough grain to require about one full day of threshing and that could mean 25 to 30 men or boys had to be on the job for a day. When the steam engines were used, the machine crew came early, five or six o'clock in the morning to fire the engine and get up enough steam to be ready to put the threshing machine in operation when the neighbor men came about eight.

Each farm family served a threshers' dinner at noon, which usually was served out in the yard and that, of course, was the job for the crew of farm women. They came from the eight to ten families of the threshing crew. These dinners of fried chicken, roast beef or pork, vegetables, homemade bread and pies, cakes, and coffee were gala and social affairs for the families and sometimes they became almost competitive with family cooks vying with one another for the reputation of furnishing the most ample and varied foods for the threshermen. Those of us who enjoyed the threshing dinners still remember the good food and friendly conversation.

Getting the thresher early was not the only problem Father had to overcome in 1895. The long-established organization of the cooperative threshing ring made it hard for him to get enough help. In a ring of ten farmers, each was expected to furnish two or three hands (men) each day. There had to be six to eight teams with drivers and hayracks to haul bundles from the field to the machine, plus two or three wagons, teams and drivers to take the threshed grain from the machine to the storage bins. In ordinary runs, crews numbered about twenty-five men, depending on the length of the hauls at the threshing site.

It is easy to see Father's problem when he tried to round up enough help to thresh his grain while almost all nearby neighbors were busy with their own threshing. To solve it, he drew on two sources: He offered to exchange work with a few farmers outside the neighborhood which meant he had to go some distance to return the favor, and he hired a few men from town. But the neighbors who squeezed some time out of their tight schedules really saved the day.

Marketing our farm products was another problem. Grain and livestock had to be hauled five miles to Algona over not very good dirt roads. (There were no gravel roads in those days.) Mother raised a good number of chickens and traded eggs and homemade butter for groceries at an Algona general store, which often sold not only food but also clothing, kitchen equipment, and drug items.

Again Father set about solving some more of his marketing problems. He was one of the prime movers in getting a cooperative creamery built at Spring Creek, two miles from our place. This plant took only whole milk so we hauled our milk there two or three times a week and each time brought home almost as much skimmed milk, which we knew was an excellent hog feed.

Wild hay was one of our farm's products. We had a large acreage of native prairie land and cut and stacked many acres of the bright hay in the field. We purchased a stacker which required all the family to operate. After mowing the hay down, it had to be raked in windrows. Then a "buck rake" gathered it together in large piles and moved it to the stacker, eliminating the need for loading it on wagons. At the stacker, the rakes pushed it on stacker teeth, and by horsepower it was thrown overhead onto the stack. Even at my rather young age, I was able to handle most of the jobs involved in the hay stacking operation. It was a common sight to see the countryside dotted with many stacks by the end of the summer.

In the early fall we brought in a hay baler that packed the hay in neat compacted bales about three feet long, by about one and a half feet wide and of the same height. Many times Father hauled hayrack loads of bales to Algona, loaded them in railroad boxcars and shipped them, usually to Chicago.

The last two years we farmed that land, the Bode brothers put in several hundred yards of drainage tile through some ponds and swampy land. We thought this system of getting rid of unwanted water a great practical innovation. Today many miles of tile and ditches now run through such land, draining it thoroughly and making it good, productive farm land.

In recalling these early farm experiences, I cannot help but marvel at the vast progress that has been made in all phases of farming and farm living. I am impressed with the way we had to farm with what we had to do with, using our hands to do much that is now done with machines. I can remember I alone husked and shoveled 100 bushels of corn into cribs, four loads of twenty-five bushels each, in a day which I figure was about 6,000 ears of corn. This required early rising, feeding and harnessing the team, eating a hearty breakfast, and usually getting to the field by daylight. At night the last load often was cribbed after supper.

Mother had a part in this operation, too. She made the outing flannel husking mittens for us huskers to wear, partly to keep our hands warm in the frosty fall air and partly to protect them from the roughness of the corn ears. When the thumbs of the right-hand mitten began to show wear, she made thumbstalls that we put inside the worn thumb of the mitten. Another interesting type of mitten was sometimes made which had thumb stalls on both sides of the mitten, so it could be reversed and used twice. And always, when we came in at the end of the day we were greeted with the warm fragrance of a hearty supper.

Some of our farm machinery was clumsy and inefficient. Our one-row cultivator always amused me and today few farmers will admit ever having used one like it or even ever having seen one. That cultivator would drop down flat when your team stopped pulling or you wanted to turn around, making for a very aggravating situation. This first cultivator had two shovels attached, made to run between corn rows and they were hung to a U-frame, with wheels mounted on short axles which, in turn, were attached to swivels. This contraption would keep the wheels upright as long as the horses pulled ahead. As long as tension kept up, all was well but when tension slacked, the swivels allowed the wheels to collapse and lie flat on the ground. No coaxing would right them, we knew--we often tried. The only remedy was to urge the team to start walking slowly to create tension again and up would come the wheels, and the cultivator could move forward again.

The next improvement on the corn cultivator was a more solid frame with handles attached to the shovels and we walked behind. Then a seat was put on the frame so we no longer walked miles and miles between the rows. And finally, several frames were fastened together so that two, and as many as ten or more rows can be cultivated at a time.

Life on the farms about the era we farmed in Kossuth County (late 1890s) was very different from what we see today. Among a few situations which we not see now and some which I recall and have not mentioned elsewhere I will set down briefly here.

Almost every farm had a cave--the reason for these was mainly: Iowa was known to be in cyclone or tornado country and caves were used as a place of safety. Since most early farm homes did not have solid foundations, we banked them with hay or straw. Caves provided a fairly cool place for storage of fresh or canned fruit and vegetables.

Caves were built a few feet away from the house, on a slope if possible, or often on level ground where a pit was dug, usually 12 x 12 feet square and 8 to 10 feet deep. A wooden structure was made to cover this space and a couple of feet of surplus soil were piled over it. A stairway from the outside provided an entry-way. Surprisingly, these caves were quite cool places in summer and in winter kept our apples, potatoes and other homegrown products from freezing.

Caves were only one of the many important devices farm people had to use to exist well in early days. I recall another one which may not have had so great practical value, but it delighted the women and girls. That was the commonly arranged "rain barrel." Scarcely any house failed to have one under the eaves to catch some of the soft rainfall. Soft water was considered a luxury for shampooing and washing clothing and linens and such delicate articles. No other softening was easily available to help soften the hard water and to use with the homemade soaps, made of lye and crackling fats.

Our farm life in Kossuth County was fairly profitable. Even more, it was pleasant living in many ways. The neighborly spirit in the community was remarkable. In the long winters there were many gatherings informally at homes for visits and card playing. Often neighbors exchanged help at such times as butchering, corn shelling or firewood sawing. In summer few Sundays passed when small or large groups, especially young people, did not come together for visiting, skating, horseshoe pitching, or baseball games. Church services, often far away, were observed by virtually every family; ours were at the Catholic Church in Algona.

One event of those years in January, 1899, is very clear in my mind. I can still see my father hitching a team up to a wagon and loading a big trunk in it. My brother John was being taken to the train in Algona to go to Iowa State College in Ames. He had enrolled in what was then known as a buttermaker's course. With the growth of local creameries such as ours, these trained men were in good demand. John took about two years' work at Iowa State, then became a buttermaker at Panora, Exira and Fort Dodge, in later years.

In the spring of 1900, a son and later a nephew of the Bode brothers, who owned the Kossuth County land we farmed, wanted to start farming in Iowa. This

In the 1880s my family moved to Funk's Grove, a small town near Bloomington, Illinois, where Father worked on the farm of Jacob Funk, one of the Funk brothers who became notable seed corn breeders, and Mother helped part-time in the Funk home.

This farm was a large one, and the Funks raised mainly corn and cattle. My sister Henrietta was born there September 19, 1885, and I was born there on February 28, 1887. In the early 1890s the family moved to the Kenyon livestock farm between McLean and Atlanta, Illinois, where my sister Lillian was born on July 20, 1892. I started school at the Mt. Hope rural one-room school in 1892 and went there two years with my older sister Henrietta. We recall the Mt. Hope school was near our farm. We took our lunch daily, and had typical games during recesses.

In the spring of 1894 we moved to the Culbertson farm two miles east of Panora in Guthrie County, where Father's sister, Mrs. Henrietta (Taff) Koehler, lived on a farm southwest of town. Here father started farming on his own for the first time, with liberal advice from my Uncle Steve Koehler, who also provided some equipment and labor for the new farmer. It was an unfortunate year to start farming. The Culbertson farm was small, only a little more than 100 acres and not very productive, and that was the year of one of the greatest Iowa droughts on record and our crops were very poor. Henrietta and I attended the Wasson rural school nearby in 1894 and early 1895. John had finished country school in Illinois by this time and Father needed him to help with farm work.

Kossuth County Farming

In the fall of 1894, William and Henry Bode of McLean, Illinois, who had been our neighbors on the Kenyon farm, went to Kossuth County, Iowa, and each purchased adjacent quarter sections of land five miles northeast of Algona. The next year they induced my family to move there from Guthrie County and farm their land. The experience of moving from one farm to another more than 100 miles away is worthy of mention. That move from Panora to Algona, Iowa, when I was about nine years old, remains vivid in my mind.

Even in one year of farming in 1894, we had accumulated considerable property in the way of household goods, farm machinery and livestock. This meant nearly all had to be taken by freight train to Kossuth County where we were to farm on a larger scale. Father rented a box car on the Milwaukee railroad at Panora and we loaded all we wanted to take in it. As I recall this included household furnishings, farming implements, four horses and a cow. When animals had to be cared for during the trip, the railroad allowed a caretaker to ride along in the train caboose so Father, my brother John paying his fare and I rode in the caboose. The trip from Panora via Storm Lake required about three days and the train arrived on schedule. Mother and two sisters had gone on a passenger train by a shorter route and were in Algona to meet the car.

Loading the box car was well planned in a certain order so the livestock could be unloaded first and then everything else piled outside on the ground. This had to be done quickly because railroad regulations gave us a limited time to use the car.

meant he needed our land because there was only one house and one set of farm buildings, and so we had to move. Farms to rent were scarce in Kossuth County. At Panora in Guthrie County, an uncle, Steve Koehler living there, found a farm for rent--a very good 160 acres with good buildings, the Horace Moore farm, four miles north of Panora. He wrote my father and it did not take much urging for our family to decide to move back to Guthrie County in March, 1900.

While on this farm I finished the eighth grade in a country school, Valley No. 6, in 1903. I was needed at home to help work the farm so I did not go to high school, but both my sisters did and were graduated from the Guthrie County High School in Panora.

Farming in Guthrie County, Iowa

We found farming here similar in many ways to our other farms, mostly raising grain and hay, but somewhat more cattle and hogs. We farmed the Moore farm from 1900 to the spring of 1907 and I helped on the farm except for a month of late 1906 and early 1907, but more about that later.

Father was known in the Panora community as a progressive farmer. He used many up-to-date methods of raising grain and feeding livestock. He was the first farmer to grow Reid's Yellow Dent seed corn; he had the first field of alfalfa; he was first in the locality to use some of the newest machinery. We also had one of the first rural telephones. Father attended many farm meetings and institutes, subscribed to numerous farm magazines and sent for many farm bulletins offered by Iowa State College and the United States Department of Agriculture, and farm papers. Another proof of his interest in good farming was the strong encouragement he gave me to attend my first short course at Iowa State College in January, 1904, but more about that later, too.

CHAPTER II

EARLY AND LATE ACTIVITIES WITH EXTENSION

IOWA STATE COLLEGE
(NOW IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY)

EARLY CONTACTS WITH IOWA STATE COLLEGE (NOW IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY)

My first contacts with Iowa State College came about through an interesting corn-growing contest. In 1903, Wallace's Farmer, a weekly farm paper, announced a corn contest for farm boys. For 25 cents the paper promised to send any boy a quart of Reid's Yellow Dent seed corn which Prof. P. G. Holden, of Iowa State College, was recommending as a superior variety. (His judgment proved to be sound for it became a very popular corn variety up to the time hybrid corn types became available, and, in fact, it became a basis of many of today's corn hybrids.)

In return for the quart of corn, each boy was to plant the seed separate from other corn, care for it as instructed, write a story about the results and exhibit a sample of ten ears in a corn show that fall. I sent for the seed, planted it, cared for and harvested it, then entered a sample in a corn show held in Des Moines.

Several hundred boys entered this contest and the project was reported in Wallace's Farmer under the heading of "Uncle Henry Wallace's Corn Club Boys." I have not been able to find a list of us who entered and only the names of the top winners were listed in the magazine and I was not one of them. But Father and I were well pleased with the yield and ordered some Reid's Yellow Dent seed for our crop the next year. Partly from this start I became active in exhibiting at institutes and corn shows.

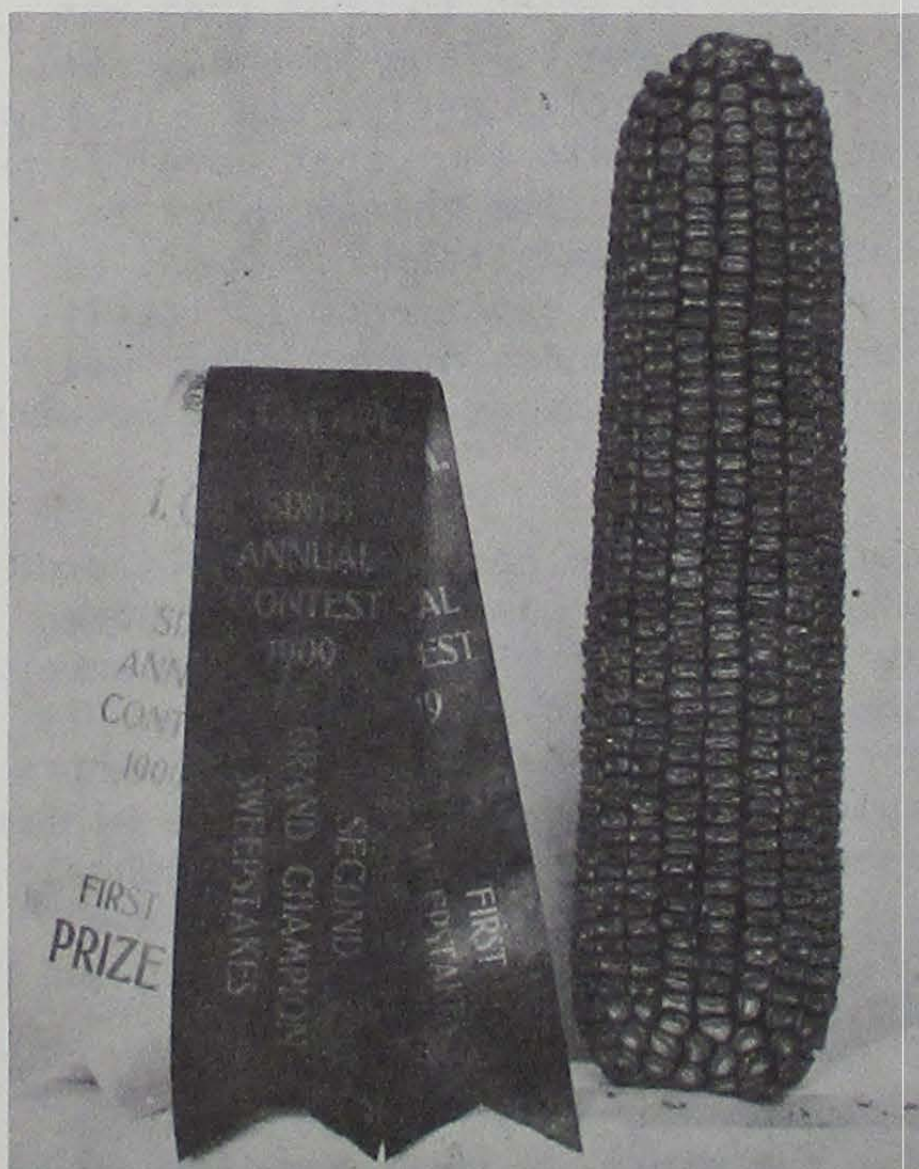
By now, my parents had become enthusiastic about my going to what then was called "a two-weeks' short course in farming" at Iowa State College in Ames. So, on a cold winter morning in January, 1904, Father and I got up early, ate a hearty breakfast my mother had cooked for us, fed the horses and did the other usual farm chores and harnessed and hitched our team to a bobsled to drive thirty miles to Jefferson for me to catch a Chicago and Northwestern railroad train for Ames. I was seventeen years old and this train trip was a wonderful experience in itself. One of the thrills was riding over the high bridge over the Des Moines river west of Boone. It was newly built and had received wide publicity as one of the wonders of the country.

Arriving in Ames, I took the "dinky" street car to the campus. I registered but do not remember how I happened to get the place where I was to room and have my meals. Anyway, it was in a large white house on the west side of Welch Avenue, a block south of what is now Lincoln Way. The building is still standing--and is an old apartment house. There were about twenty of us "short horns" as we country boys were known by the few regular students staying there during the College winter vacation. The one student I recall with whom I became best acquainted was Robert E. Buchanan, a senior to graduate with the June class of 1904, who later became Dean at the College. He was most considerate of all of us green country kids and helped us in many ways to become acquainted with college life.

In the two-week short course program those attending were divided into two groups; while one group was studying corn topics, the other would be studying livestock feeding and judging, then every two hours they would switch places. Special lectures at the end of the day dealt with such subjects as soils, alfalfa, or legumes, livestock feeding and care and others. In these courses about half of about 800 students usually were young men under 25 years of age like myself, and one-half



Iowa Champion Corn Judging Team, Ames, 1905. From left: Grant Chapman, Bagley; Paul C. Taff, Panora; James A. King, Bagley.



Champion ear of corn grown by Paul Taff and shown at the State Corn Show in Ames, 1906.



Paul Taff judged at the Iowa State Fair for more than 50 years. Here he is judging a farm exhibit in 1972.

were older men up to 70-75 years old. Most of the older men were farm operators so we made some good contacts in classes.

Of the several instructors, the one I remember best was Prof. P. G. Holden, then head of the department of Farm Crops and Soils (Agronomy) at Iowa State. He was an inspirational and effective teacher and a great help as I found my way into a career.

Prof. Holden urged short-course students to bring ten ears of our seed corn from home to "compare with others," which really meant entering the corn show to be held during the time we were on the campus. I entered some of our corn there and later at farmers' institutes at home. At first I was not successful in winning prizes but in 1906 I had the reserve champion single ear of corn in the state adult show in Ames, then conducted by the Iowa Corn Growers Association, and I still have the ribbon. In the next couple of years I won many more ribbons in local and state corn shows.

I attended Iowa State's short courses again in January of 1905 and 1906. In addition to showing some winning corn during those years, I accomplished another feat in those courses, of which I was very proud. At the close of the short course every member was asked to take a written test and an actual judging examination in both the crops and livestock work and most of the 800 students did. Our examination papers were graded and in both 1905 and 1906 I received the highest individual score in the farm crop courses. I still have the engraved medal I won in the 1905 examination but no such award was made the next year.

First Employment at Iowa State

My record was considered an unusual accomplishment, especially among so many older men, that it attracted Prof. Holden's attention. He told me later it was one reason he decided that if I had become that capable in crops work, he could use me as an assistant on his staff to help with the coming county short courses. The result was that he called me at our farm north of Panora (a long-distance telephone call was rare in those days) late in November, 1906 and asked if I would meet him and his crew in Des Moines early in December when they would be on their way by train to open a week's short course in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Of course, I gladly accepted the invitation. I regard this event as a very important one in my life and probably the one, more than any others that determined my life's interest. It was my first employment with Iowa State College and it is documented in a section of the report of Iowa Extension work for 1906-1907 on file in the Iowa State University library where my name is listed as employed for work at Mt. Pleasant in December, 1906, and also for other work I did in later years. Prof. Holden asked me to help with a similar Extension short course in Red Oak in January, 1907 and I am shown again in the report as a paid College worker for which I received three dollars per day and expenses.

My responsibility at these short courses was three-fold:

1. I was one of several associates who moved around the room to check and answer questions of students in the crops class while they worked on samples of corn on a table before them after a lecture on what to look for.

2. I judged the competitive exhibits in the corn show at these courses, but my decisions were subject to review by Prof. Holden. To my great satisfaction, he seldom differed with my selections.

3. I was responsible for our literature and equipment, such as charts, germination test boxes and supplies.

The week-long short courses held over the state by a staff of instructors from the College were an important part of the winter's Extension program from 1906 to about 1915. They included many phases of agriculture and home economics, often in special classes for boys and girls. Subjects presented ranged over the wide interests of farm people in crops and soils, livestock production, homemaking and community activities. The attendance at each short course ran from 300 to as high as 800 in some. Eight to ten College specialists made up our Extension staff.

These short courses were considered important factors in providing some benefits other than just the instruction. One was the bringing together a lot of progressive people from whom active rural leadership developed. I am happy to have had a part in many of these courses over the state.

After the work in Mt. Pleasant and Red Oak I spent a couple of months early in 1907 with my family. Father and Mother had saved up some money, enough to purchase 90 acres at the west edge of Panora, and moved there that spring. Partly because I was not needed on this farm and partly because of what was important to me, I accepted Prof. Holden's invitation to go to Ames and work from there on the county crop demonstration plots for the greater part of the growing season of 1907.

My first assignment was in Page and Montgomery counties. Later in the year I did the same work in several counties during the crop season. At odd times I worked in the Central Extension office so it seemed best for me to make my permanent home in Ames. I first lived at what was then the Colonnade Club (later the Colonial Club) on the corner of Lincoln Way and Ash Avenue, in a house still there. In 1910 our club built a brick house at 217 Ash and I lived there until I was married in 1913. The Colonial Club became a national fraternity in 1919, now the Theta Delta Chi fraternity and I was made a graduate member.

My College Courses Begin

Another turning point in my career came in 1907. After my first short course at Iowa State in 1904, I was determined to attend Iowa State College and graduate there, but I had to find ways to overcome two big handicaps. First, I had only an eighth grade education and the College required at least 28 high school credits for college graduation. Second, I had little money and my parents could not afford the expense of my college education.

The financial problem was pretty well solved with a tacit promise from Prof. Holden that Extension and College would pay me for all the time I could spare in vacation months and during the school year. At the start I was paid ten cents an hour, the going rate for such student services on the campus at that time. By taking advantage of these arrangements, I was able to work my way through college to graduation except for a few small short-term loans from my folks.

The problem of getting high school credits was not as easily solved. But I started on that task in 1907, first studying and reviewing some subjects in my spare time. Later I enrolled in some elementary credit courses - mathematics, history, English and others - which the College was giving in the summers. With some subjects, the College allowed me to take examinations for credit in lieu of taking the courses. I also studied a number of subjects on my own and took examinations at the Panora High School and passed them for credits.

I first enrolled as a full-time student at Iowa State College in the fall of 1908. The College was kind enough to enroll me as a "special academic student" until I had 28 high school credits as explained above. By that time I was eligible to enroll as a sophomore so I passed up ever enrolling as a freshman at Iowa State. I completed the four-year course in June, 1912 except for three hours of required laboratory work. Prof. M. L. Mosher, head of Extension agronomy work, recommended me for full-time employment for county crop demonstration plot work from June 1, 1912 to August 31, 1912, which assured me I would have work all summer.

At that time I fully expected to complete the required three hours and to take several other courses in the fall quarter of 1912. But during the summer, Prof. W. J. Kennedy, the new director of Extension, called me to his office and told me he could arrange with the College to waive some rules that would allow him to appoint me to fulltime employment on September 1, 1912 and at the same time, allow me to pass up the few hours I needed. He gave as his reason for making this arrangement, his urgent need for me on his staff full time in crops work. I accepted.

Under the College rules it could not issue my diploma until all the required courses and credits were completed, which, under Prof. Kennedy's arrangement, would be in December, 1912. I qualified for my degree and it was granted, but since there was no formal graduation ceremony then in the middle of the year, President R. A. Pearson handed me my diploma dated January 1, 1913. All this explains why I am listed in the alumni records as a 1913 graduate (at ISU) and yet the records show that I had been a fulltime employee of the College since June 1, 1912.

I feel I was quite active in my four years at the College, though doing part time work on Extension it was difficult. Part of the story of my college activities can be told by quoting the sketch which accompanied the graduates' picture section in the 1913 Bomb, the class annual published in June 1912:

"Paul C. Taff

Agronomy -- Panora, Iowa

Colonials, Philomathean, Final Intercollegiate Kennedy Cup and Normal Debate, Scrub Faculty, Battalion Adjutant Cadets, Editor 1913 Bomb, Class Vice-President, Ag Club; Declamatory Contest, Delta Sigma Rho, Alpha Zeta, Cardinal Guild, Cosmopolitan Club, Forensic League, Judge National Corn Exposition '09, '10. Student Staff, Iowa Agriculturalist Staff.

Paul's ability to do work varies directly as the square of the time. He is the Extension Department's right-hand man. In fact, he divides his time about equally between college and outside work, but always succeeds in doing as much in each as the ordinary man does in one."

This certificate of employment by Iowa State College was required by the Federal and State Civil Service systems for arranging a retirement program for Paul Taff. It does not include part-time employment before 1912 and after 1953.

IOWA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS

Ames, Iowa

CERTIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO JULY 1, 1953

To: The Iowa Employment Security Commission
Des Moines, Iowa

This is to certify that Paul L Taff was
93 # 479-30-4770
employed by Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa as indicated below.

This statement of employment is substantiated by records here
at the Iowa State College.

<u>Start of Employment</u>		<u>Termination of Employment</u>	
Month	Year	Month	Year
<u>June</u>	<u>7-1912</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>31-1953</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

The highest salary received for any one year was;

☒ Check here if \$3000 or in excess of \$3000.

\$ _____ Indicate total if less than \$3000 for any year.

Certifying Officer:

J. J. Hall
Title Treasurer

Date December 30-1953



The Oat Special train made a stop at Waukon in 1914. Paul Taff, in cap with chart stand behind him, lectured to overflow crowd of farmers.



Paul Taff held a short course in his home town, Panora, in January, 1914. He is first man standing along the left wall and his father, standing along the right wall, was one of the pupils in this corn judging class.

Supervising Correspondence Courses

In 1915 Director Bliss gave me the added task of developing and conducting Extension correspondence courses in agriculture and home economics for rural teachers. These courses were needed because a new state law in Iowa required the teaching of both subjects in all rural schools. My added title was "Superintendent of Correspondence Courses." I wrote most of the lessons in crops and soils. The animal courses were mostly prepared by animal husbandry and poultry specialists. Miss Neale S. Knowles prepared the courses in home economics. All of the courses were printed and bound copies are in my files and in the Iowa State University library.

My task was to secure enrollments, send instructions to the enrollees, mail out the lessons and rate the answer sheets, or arrange for the concerned specialist to do the rating. The enrollee paid a small fee for each course. The printed annual Extension report states that there were 207 enrollments in 1915 (part year) and 375 in 1916. Later the courses were discontinued, and my title with them, because the law was not being generally enforced.

On July 1, 1917, Director R. K. Bliss appointed me Assistant Director of the State Extension Service. I was to continue to do some crops work in my field (Crops and Soils), but mainly, I was assigned to staff supervision under him which meant I had much to do with program making and staff appointments. By that date the staff included more than 100 Central Staff members and more than 100 Field appointees. (Later I will tell how I was appointed State Club Leader on November 1, 1921.) This position continued concurrently with that of State Assistant Extension Director until 1952 when I reached 65, the compulsory retirement age from administrative work, but I was allowed to continue three-fourths time on the Extension staff for another five years.

I can see where a record of the many activities I engaged in during all my active years will cover much space. However, I think it will be worthwhile to sketch as many as possible in this record. I will separate these into categories--first, those from my first appointment in 1912, then the highlights of my work as Assistant Director of Extension and State 4-H Club Leader, and finally, my community and extra-curricular activities.

To make my principal activities clear, here they are in rough chronological order (admitting some repetition).

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1906 - 1908 | Short courses, county demonstration plot and Extension office work |
| 1908 | Entered Iowa State College as academic student. |
| 1908 - 1912 | Student at Iowa State College, completed most of the work for degree in Agronomy, awarded B.S. degree in Agronomy and diploma January 1, 1913; same time worked my way through college on various assignments. (See references of several activities elsewhere.) |
| 1912 - 1914 | Prepared numerous types of printed material for crops and club work, and continued to make short course and institute dates out in the state. |
| 1914 - | Served about six months as Acting State Extension Director. |

- 1915 Made many Extension crop and soils dates. Prepared part of teachers' agricultural correspondence courses and administered this program.
- In December supervised trip to Panama-Pacific Exposition, San Francisco, and to Mexico for 44 Iowa County and State Corn Club Champions.
- 1914 - 1916 Took charge of statewide campaigns to secure good seed corn.
- 1916 - 1917 Supervised food production and conservation campaign - employing extra county and state workers, securing equipment and issuing and distributing literature. In late November, 1917 appointed Assistant Extension Director.
- 1918 Aided in all wartime programs and did temporary service at Fort Des Moines, as related elsewhere.
- 1919 - 1925 Post-War Extension activities, mostly educational programs on adjustments to the new economic conditions.
- 1921 - 1952 Appointed State Club Leader on state and federal staffs.
- 1926 - 39 Aided in the administration of many Extension programs during the depression and drouth years. Served on numerous state committees. Also took over promotion of group discussion work, was called to Washington by Extension officials several times to help plan methods and literature. Took leadership in encouraging group discussion method dealing with community and economic problems and wrote an Extension circular entitled, "Shall We Discuss?" of which many thousand copies were printed and distributed. (Copy in Iowa State University library).
- 1940 - 1945 Active in all wartime Extension action programs, centering primarily on production of grains, meat and dairy products, and food preservation, preservation and conservation.
- 1945 - 1952 Became more active in 4-H Club leadership work in Iowa and the United States.
- 1951 Selected Adult Leader by the USDA to accompany 54 young people from 18 states, International Farm Youth Exchangees, to 14 European and Near East countries. (See more of this project elsewhere.)
- 1952 - 1957 Reached age 65 and required to relinquish administrative responsibilities but was kept active on part-time for several years in foreign Youth Exchange programs and other Extension activities. In vacation time began history of National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, Chicago, Illinois. (In manuscript but not published). Also active in many other agencies.

Later Years

Was on temporary appointment for several years preparing historical records.

Brief Mention of Some Special War and Other Activities

I served as Assistant State Extension Director and State 4-H Club Leader through two World Wars and for all the intervening years. Since the wars required so much time and energy, a brief description of a few problems, typical of both periods, may be in order at this point.

Before World War I, back as far as 1915, it was evident that our country might become involved in the war then starting in Europe. It was plain then, too, that one of the contributions the United States would have to make, outside of manpower, would be food and fiber supplies. The U.S. Department of Agriculture became very active at once and provided all states with sizable federal appropriations of funds to carry on their work. State Extension Services were asked to ready themselves for huge food production and conservation campaigns and Iowa, the leading state in that respect, gave the Extension Service a special opportunity to be of valuable service to our country. R. K. Bliss, our vigorous and farsighted Extension Director, threw his entire staff into action. As one of his right-hand workers, I was given many important assignments before, during and after the war. In the years before and after World War II I was given a number of assignments and activities.

Part in a Study of Extension

In 1930, Iowa State President R. M. Hughes appointed a faculty committee to study the organization and programs of the Iowa Extension Service. They were: Chairman - J. B. Davidson, Head of Agricultural Engineering Department; H. M. Hamlin, Associate Professor, Vocational Education Department; and Paul C. Taff, Assistant Director, Extension Service.

This committee was authorized to study all phases of Extension, with subcommittees as needed. We devoted much time to this task and made our final report to President Hughes early in 1933. This report was accepted and published by Iowa State College; copies are in the Iowa State library.

Bulletins and Other Literature Published

While I was still in college, 1910-1911, I was asked to prepare several circulars, mainly to instruct our 4-H club members in various phases of crop growing and related subjects. The first printed records of my contribution to these circulars will be found on page 6 of Extension Bulletin No. 6, January, 1911. Copies can be found in the 4-H Club literature volumes in the Iowa State library.

I took over most of the direction of the county farm demonstration plot work in 1912 to 1915, from M. L. Mosher, who became county agent in Clinton County. In the fall of each year I prepared the data on the plots for each county, the results of which were published. There were 29 such reports printed as "County Demonstration Farm Report," Nos. 34 to 62 inclusive. In these my name appears as co-author or author. All are in bound sets in the Iowa State library.

Other printed Extension bulletins and circulars of which I was author or co-author were:

- Bul. No. 14 - Harvest Iowa Seed Corn Early - 1913
- Bul. No. 16 - Conducting Agricultural Exhibits and Contents - 1913
- Bul. No. 39 - Alfalfa Growing in Iowa - 1916
- Bul. No. 40 - Liming and Inoculating Soils - 1916
- Bul. No. 29 - Improving Iowa's Oat Crop - 1917
- Bul. No. 45 - Good Seed Corn for Next Year - 1916
- Junior Circular (in part) No. 19 - Course 1 - Acre Corn Growing Contest - Iowa Boys and Girls Club - 1912
- Junior Circular No. 28 - Suggestions for Boys and Girls Corn Club Contest - 1915
- Junior Circular No. 29 - Suggestions for Boys and Girls Corn Club Contest - 1916

(copies of all above are in ISU library.)

During the years authorship was not given for much other literature prepared for club work and Extension campaigns, but I had a large part in the preparation of many publications.

Activities With the Iowa State Fair

After my appointment as State Club Leader, I automatically took charge of all club departments at the Iowa State Fair where club exhibits had started back in 1914 under the direction of State Club Leader E. C. Bishop. The number of exhibits grew from year to year, except for some setbacks during World War I when there was no fair. In 1922, we established the first 4-H club dining hall, of which I was the director, in the old abandoned floral hall on the fairgrounds. The next year the dining hall was moved to a converted cattle barn across the street where it operated until 1940 when the present concrete building was completed. I was in charge of the dining hall in this building until 1969, along with other club work at the Fair.

Among other features added to the 4-H show at the State Fair from time to time was the first 4-H health contest held anywhere in the world started in 1922. The 4-H livestock exhibits and girls' exhibits were very large and became outstanding features of the Fair. Some years as many as 2,200 club members took part in one or more events as exhibitors, demonstration teams, judging teams, and health contestants. A complete history of club work at the Fair is included in the club records on file in the Iowa State library.

This seems as good a place as any to digress from youth work to record another important task I have performed at the State Fair for many years. In connection with the Iowa State Fair agricultural exhibits I judged a part of the agricultural exhibits from 1915 to 1970 (except 1951 when I was out of the United States which was probably due to my agronomy training. This is a record, and it should be noted that I did this judging at the same time I was directing all the Fair's 4-H club activities.



Partner in 4-H NATIONAL CITATION

The Cooperative Extension Service Salutes

Paul C. Taff

as a Partner in the 4-H educational programs conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Land-Grant Colleges and Universities.

This citation is presented in grateful appreciation for
outstanding service to young people.

National 4-H Conference

April 28, 1972

Jack M. Byrce
Chairman, 4H - Youth Subcommittee

Arthur H. Schulz
Chairman, Extension Committee on
Organization and Policy

Ed Vaughan
Assistant Administrator
4-H Youth Programs

Edwin L. Kirby
Administrator, Extension Service
United States Department of Agriculture

IOWA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Paul C. Taff

*In recognition of outstanding service to the
Association and to the agriculture of Iowa
the Directors of the Iowa Crop Improvement
Association do hereby award this certificate*

February 2, 1970
DATE

C. E. Walmarth
PRESIDENT
Charles D. Hitchcock
SECRETARY

The Iowa Crop Improvement Association elected Paul Taff to honorary membership in 1970 in recognition of his outstanding service to the Association and to the agriculture of Iowa.

This is only a brief listing of my activities. It does not indicate the many days I spent in extra activities and Extension work often to the sacrifice of my class work. The many absences from classes were not always enthusiastically welcomed, but generally were approved by my instructors. These experiences were valuable and I am certain they enabled me to take on larger tasks in later years. The Extension work was financially rewarding, too, and that I needed.

In the fall of 1908 I was assigned to the College Agronomy Department as a part-time laboratory assistant and instructor for the regular crops students, known by students as Scrub Faculty. Thus I had the added task of organizing, mimeographing and assembling voluminous class notes, and teaching in laboratory work. This work usually meant getting to the campus office by 5:00 a.m. and working a couple of hours to have the material ready for the professors' eight o'clock classes; then back to my rooming house for breakfast. This was my only experience teaching on the campus, except for some special lectures when called upon, until my appointment in 1912.

I am not attempting to detail many of the early Extension events and activities I engaged in during my college career but I may prepare separately a memory section to illustrate some of the actual programs, posters and clippings related to some of them.

Important Staff Appointments

To list completely all my official appointments and changes of titles following September 1, 1912 would be too complicated, but some of those most significant and for which I have a record are listed here.

During 1912-1914 my title was Extension Assistant in Agronomy. Prof. W. J. Kennedy, State Extension Director, resigned unexpectedly in April, 1914 and that month Pres. R. A. Pearson notified me that he was appointing me Acting State Extension Director for an indefinite period. Later he confirmed the appointment in a letter and stated that I was to receive \$50.00 a month in addition to my regular salary.

The appointment was a surprise to me and I felt it was a fine honor as I was one of the youngest members of a large and growing staff. I was twenty-seven years old and that was considered really young in College positions in that day. The President told me personally he felt he would have to appoint an older person for the permanent position, to which I fully agreed. After considering several, he asked me if the staff and I could work wholeheartedly with R. K. Bliss, a former member of our staff. We endorsed Mr. Bliss enthusiastically and the President appointed him State Extension Director. Mr. Bliss came from Nebraska to relieve me of my temporary appointment on September 15, 1914 and I reverted to my position of Extension Assistant in Agronomy.

During the period I served as Acting Director, we had to make up the Extension budget for 1914-1915. On July 1, 1914, the first Federal Extension Act, the Smith-Lever law, went into effect and that law provided for the first permanent federal funds for the states and Iowa had an allotment. These funds were in addition to our usual state appropriation for Extension. This new source of funds required much new planning and paper work to meet the federal requirements that made an interesting and exciting few months of work for me.

NEW YORK CITY STUDY TRIP

Date - May 4-11, 1941

Purpose: To acquaint 4-H Club members with how city folks live and work
and
To study methods used by city people in work and play.

Delegation: State Club department was advised to select eight Iowa mature club members for a study trip to New York City for ten days. Those selected are named below:

Girls: Ruth Ann Hermanson, Palo Alto County
Marion Hoppe, Black Hawk County
Grace Miner, Wright County
Harriet Monson, Fremont County

Boys: Robert Rogers, Woodbury County
William Sayre, Warren County
Wade Hauser, Hardin County
Robert H. Thompson, Jr.
St. Lawrence County, New York

Chaperons: Edith Barker, Iowa Girls Club Leader
Paul C. Taff, Iowa State Club Leader

Program arranged by Lincoln Demonstration School:

1. Visit to Lincoln School - study methods and operation.
2. Port of New York - The Center of World Trade.
3. Housing and race relations in New York City.
4. Labor Relations in New York City.
5. Distribution of goods as centered in New York.
6. Trip to many other New York places of interest and conferences with prominent people.



Above picture shows our delegation and others viewing New York children at play. R. Edith Barker; L. Paul C. Taff; others, not identified.

My Other Work With Rural Youth

Since my active time on the Extension staff was divided almost equally between adult work (Extension Administration) and as State 4-H Club Leader, I am adding a full section on my activities with 4-H clubs. I feel I made a significant contribution to 4-H work in Iowa and the nation and I will try to mention and document this statement.

My earliest contact with rural youth activities was my enrollment in Uncle Henry's Boys Corn Club in 1904. After I was employed by Extension, first in December, 1906, Prof. Holden often called upon me to judge junior and adult corn shows at short courses and teacher institutes and often to give talks to groups attending these affairs. Next, around 1909-10, I wrote several circulars for club members (in library). In 1910 I had charge of a state junior corn show at Ames and the printed premium list for that event is in bound sets of Club literature in the Iowa State library. Later I had charge of the junior short courses at Iowa State College.

An Interesting Assignment

In the early years of 4-H club work, corn clubs were at the top of membership lists. Around 1908 to 1916, when the animal (beef, pig, poultry and others) club enrollments grew rapidly, corn clubs were offered many fine trip-awards.

In 1915 I largely directed a state-wide boys' corn club program. Part of the program was to encourage county club committees to raise funds, mostly through banks, for an award of a trip to the Panama-Pacific Exposition, San Francisco, to the top county corn club winner. Forty-three counties qualified by raising about \$150 each. In December, 1915, the 43 county winners, plus a state winner, gathered in Ames to take the Chicago Northwestern special cars, one a Pullman and dining car combined, for the trip. Director Bliss asked me to serve as adult leader for this extensive trip to the Exposition, the West and down into Mexico. The story of the trip is reported quite well by one of the 1915-16 winners and is printed in the 1915-16 annual report on file in the Iowa State library.

State Leader Appointment

Between 1915 and 1919 a number of club organizational and supervisory problems arose in Iowa. The State Club Leader, E. C. Bishop, resigned in early 1919 and Director Bliss asked me to take over that position in addition to my position as Assistant State Extension Director. Since a part of my salary was, and would continue to come partly from federal extension funds, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), according to correspondence in our files, did not look with favor on this one-half time appointment for a state club leader. The Federal people were kind enough to say that they were not questioning my ability to handle either one of the jobs, but they were trying to establish the state club leadership position as a full-time job.

But Director Bliss, after numerous letters and telephone calls, stood firm on the grounds that, with the serious club supervisory problems arising in the state, he thought it necessary to name a capable State Club Leader who also had some official authority to represent him, a judgment proven correct later. Such authority, that could clear up much of the difficulties in the state, I had, of course, as

Bridging the gap

He recalls when it was only 3-H

The theme of the 50th national 4-H Congress meeting here through Thursday is bridging the gap.

And most certainly the longest bridge of all at the convention is 85-year-old Paul C. Taff, who has attended each and every annual meeting that has been held.

In fact, Taff goes so far back — even beyond the time of the first national congress in 1921 — that he remembers when the 4-H emblem had only three H's, which represented only Head, Heart and Hands.

Explains meaning of emblem

"Yes, sir, the fourth H — for Health — was not added to the emblem until later, about 1912," Taff recalled Monday in his room at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, where some 2,500 youngsters are attending the convention which began Sunday.



PAUL C. TAFF

Taff, a kindly, courtly man with a military bearing, then explained the meaning of the national emblem, a green four-leaf clover with a white H in each leaf, by reciting the national pledge:

"I pledge my Head to clearer thinking, my Heart to greater loyalty, my Hands to larger service and my Health to better living, for my club, my community and my country."

Iowa club leader in 1919

Taff said he first became involved in farm club work in 1903 when as a boy in Iowa he joined Wallace's Boys Corn Clubs.

"Each boy who joined," he said, "got a quart of better seed corn. Dad and I wanted some of that seed to improve our crop, so I joined."

From there, he went on to 4-H Club work, becoming Iowa club leader in 1919. He became involved, he said, because as a farm boy he saw there was a need to help develop the young into better farmers and better citizens.

In those early days, Taff said, 4-H clubs were exclusively rural clubs for boys and girls from 18 to 20.

Today, there are some 4 million youths from ages 9 to 19 in 92,500 local clubs. Most of the members still are from farms and small towns, but there are some clubs in the larger cities, including Chicago.

The clubs traditionally have sponsored various practical projects — involving corn, tomatoes, animals and the like — and continue to do so, though the group says the emphasis has changed over the years.

Seminars available

Thus, whereas in times past the healthiest 4-H boy and girl were selected at each annual meeting, the delegates here Monday had their choice of seminars dealing with communications, environmental ecology, politics, poverty and race relations.

And, on Wednesday, President Nixon will fly in to address the group for the first time.

What all that adds up to for Taff is that rural youth of today, while not necessarily smarter than their predecessors, have all the "common conveniences" of their urban counterparts and are just as sophisticated.

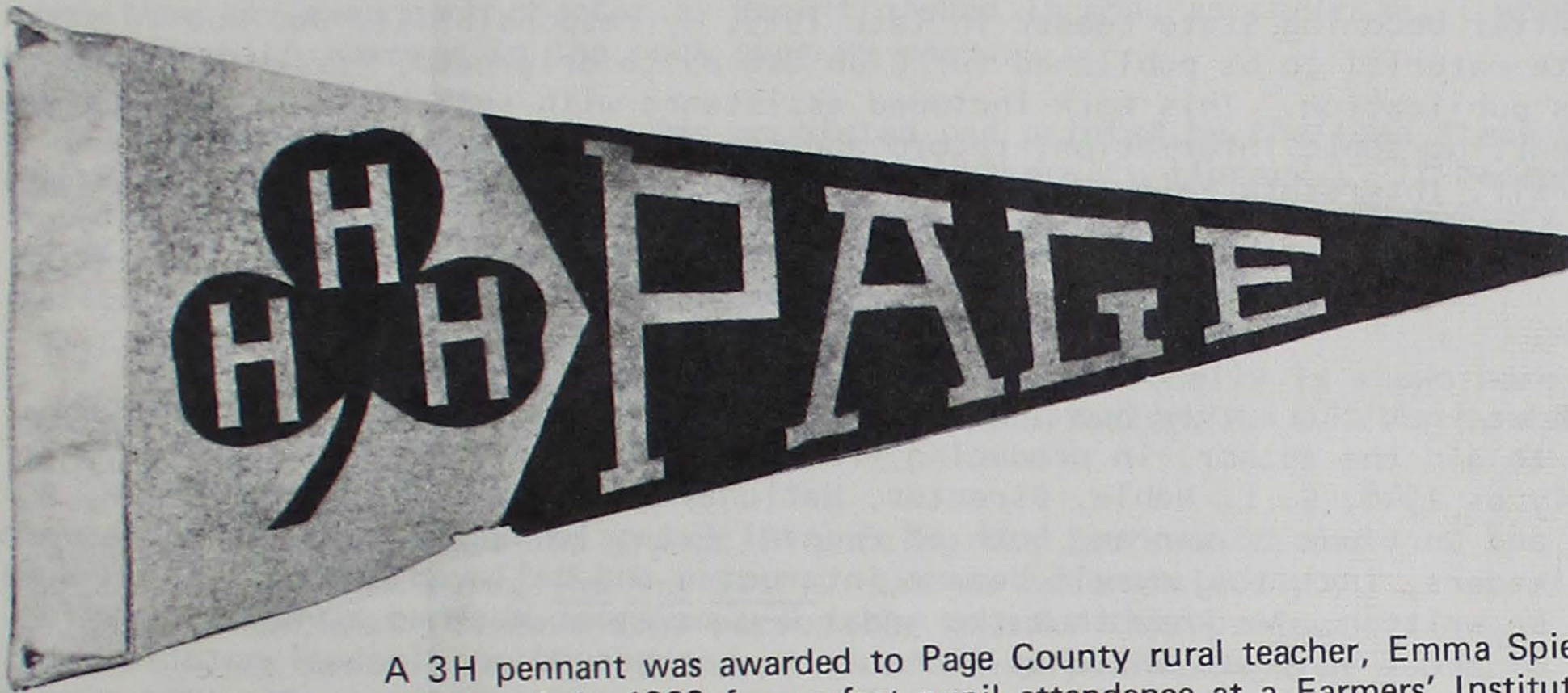
But their advantage, he said, is the open air, the sense of being part of nature and the routine of hard work that they enjoy on the farm.



In 1915 Iowa 4H Corn Club boys won a trip to the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco and to Mexico. Paul Taff supervised the group. He stood at the extreme right when they posed beside one of the two special pullman cars for a picture along the way, some place in Arizona.



Page County and Wright County had their own 3H insignia in the early days of club work. Paul Taff awarded 3H buttons at Farmers' Institutes in Page County. Port Stitt received one of them and wore it in a parade at the National Corn Show in Omaha in 1909.



A 3H pennant was awarded to Page County rural teacher, Emma Spielman-Wherkampf, in 1909 for perfect pupil attendance at a Farmers' Institute.



The now familiar 4H emblem was adopted in 1912.



The 3H emblem was used in many ways.

Assistant State Extension Director. The USDA accepted my appointment as State Club Leader, dated November 1, 1919.

I continued to be State Club Leader until June 30, 1952, when I reached age 65, the mandatory retirement age for administrative work. At that time an Iowa State policy entitled retired persons to an additional five years employment at reduced salary. In this capacity, I continued to serve as an assistant in the Club department on a number of tasks, such as supervising our International Farm Youth and other supervisory tasks and reporting on my trips to foreign countries at more than 100 meetings.

After becoming State Leader in late 1919, my responsibility was not as much to write material to be published for Club use as to originate, review and arrange for its publication. This work included assistance with such kinds of publications as supporting topic information, record and report forms, premium lists for the State Fair, Interstate Fair (Sioux City), National 4-H Congress (Chicago) and many others.

An Important Task

I was not the author but I had a large part, as chairman of a national committee to aid the author, in producing Franklin M. Reck's book, The 4-H Story. As early as 1948, G. L. Noble, Director, National Boys and Girls Committee; R. A. Turner and Gertrude L. Warren, both of Federal Extension Service, USDA; and several state leaders, including myself became interested and believed a history of 4-H clubs should be written. We knew that the great 4-H movement had had a very successful career of about 40 years and that much of its background and factual material was disappearing. We also knew that a lively controversy was raging among some pioneers as to who should have the credit for originating these clubs. Several claims of where, when and how 4-H Club work started had been published, a confusing situation as many claims were thought to be based on a not very sound foundation.

The most perplexing problem was how the task of researching, writing, publishing and distributing the book could be financed. Informally, Mr. Noble and I explored several possible sources of funds with such individuals as Clifford Gregory, editor, Prairie Farmer, and Dr. Henry Taylor, Director of Farm Foundation, but with no specific results. The USDA always expressed a keen interest in the project but did not believe it had the authority or finances to do the job.

The National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work (now the National 4-H Service Committee) came to the rescue and agreed to underwrite the project under the direction of a committee of club leaders. This decision led M. L. Wilson, Director of the Federal Extension Service, USDA, to appoint the following committee in 1950:

Gertrude L. Warren, Club Staff, USDA
G. L. Noble, Director, National Committee, Boys and Girls Club Work, Chicago
R. A. Turner, Club Staff, USDA
Hallie L. Hughes, Club Staff, Virginia Extension Service
C. B. Smith, Federal Extension Staff, USDA
Paul C. Taff, Club Staff, Iowa State College Extension Service, Chairman

M. L. Wilson, Director, Federal Extension Service, USDA, served as ex officio member.

After several meetings this committee developed and approved a plan to underwrite the cost of the project and to handle distribution of the book. The committee considered several possible authors and finally engaged Franklin Reck, a well-known, capable and experienced writer who started research work immediately. Reck was a fortunate selection as he was a thorough researcher and wrote in an interesting style. However, he had not had very close contact with 4-H, nor with its beginning and development. This meant the committee was expected to aid him in many phases of the project and several of us did just that.

As chairman of the committee I devoted more time than anyone and spent many days assisting the author. I made several trips with him to collect facts about early 4-H history from the Washington files and from Iowa and other sources. The committee reviewed each chapter as Reck finished it and, as chairman, I wrote the Foreword which appears in the book over my name.

The book, The 4-H Story, was completed and printed by the Iowa State College Press in 1951. (Copies are in the Iowa State University library.) It became very popular immediately and it has been reprinted several times. The 4-H Story is quite well accepted now as the authentic account of the origins of both the organization and the 4-H emblem, as well as can be proven by known records.

That my work on this project was appreciated nationally is shown here in a quote from a letter to me from Federal Extension Director, M. L. Wilson, dated March 2, 1951.

"I am glad I had a part in putting the facts on record in this book, The 4-H Story. Let me congratulate you on what you have done personally to make this project a success and for the sound leadership you have given the committee in regard to this important service. I am sure the book will be very valuable. It will be a permanent asset which will inspire future generations for greater service in 4-H Club work."

National 4-H Club Congress

I was a member or cooperated with an advisory committee of state and national leaders formed in 1922 to aid the National 4-H Congress. From 1923 I served as superintendent of the Congress. (It had another name the first two years, namely 4-H Tours.) I continued to serve as superintendent until 1937 and in other capacities in later years. In the many years I also worked closely with G. L. Noble, the director of the National Club Work Committee, members of the USDA club staff and the committee of state leaders. We all felt we had an important part in this successful event that recognized 4-H Club members. In recent years I have served as director of the 4-H Health Service at the National Club Congress. Through all these activities I attended all Club Congresses for 50 years and I was given special recognition at its 50th anniversary celebration in 1972.

National 4-H Camp

In 1928 I attended the second National 4-H Club Camp in Washington, D. C., and many of the succeeding camps. Every state and also a few foreign countries

sent delegates. In several I often had a part in the programs and in 1947 and for several years following I was in charge of all discussion programs.

During the 33 years I served as State 4-H Leader in Iowa I took an active part in many state and national meetings, conferences and shows. Among them were the Interstate Fair and its 4-H programs at Sioux City, the Ak-Sar-Ben at Omaha, the Interstate Club shows at St. Joseph and Kansas City.

Iowa 4-H Camping Center Is Launched

Beginning immediately after World War II, I was active in planning and promoting the Iowa 4-H Camping Center south of Boone. The entire story of staff meetings and conferences held in the investigation of sites and the purchase of land, is told and documented in a bound volume which I developed for this project. Copies are in the Club office file and in my office on the campus. This project has grown to a three quarter million dollar activity, all financed by private contributions. It accommodates several thousand people each year with facilities for educational and recreational programs.

International Farm Youth Exchange Project

My most extensive project, and the most interesting one, I made in my club experience, came in 1951. The Federal Extension Office, USDA, asked me to act as the U.S. adult leader for the 54 International Farm Youth Exchangees from 34 states and to accompany and supervise them for a stay in Europe and the Near East. I accepted this assignment even though it meant some loss of part-time income from the College; my expenses were paid through USDA.

Itinerary of Paul C. Taff, U.S. Group Leader

June 10	Leave Ames, Iowa	July 27-29	Tel-Aviv, Israel
June 11-25	USDA - Washington, D.C.	July 30	Vienna, Austria
June 26	New York (United Nations)	Aug. 2	
June 27	Embark with IFYE Group on SS Georgia from New York	Aug. 3-6	Belgrade, Yugoslavia
July 6	Stopped in Ireland	Aug. 7-13	Frankfurt, Germany
July 6	Arrive in LeHavre, France	Aug. 14-15	Hague, Netherlands
July 6-10	Paris, France	Aug. 17-18	Brussels, Belgium
July 11-12	Berne, Switzerland	Aug. 19-21	London, England
July 13-17	Rome, Italy	Aug. 22-24	Edinburgh, Scotland
July 18-19	Athens, Greece	Aug. 25	London, England
July 20-22	Beirut, Lebanon	Aug. 26	Sail on SS Nelly from Southampton, England
July 22-26	Ankara, Turkey	Sept. 4	Arrive in New York
July 26	Cyprus	Sept. 5-8	USDA - Washington, D. C.
		Sept. 9	Arrive - Ames, Iowa

After leaving a few delegates at Cobb, Ireland, we went on to Havre and Paris, France. From there, in the next few days, the delegates left for the countries to which they had been assigned. I had to remain in Paris a few days to secure my visas to some countries which I had not been able to complete in the USA. I then left by plane or train to make the above schedule.



In 1951 the United States Department of Agriculture asked Paul Taff to accompany 54 American rural young people to Europe and the Near East for a summer program. These were the first International Farm Youth Exchangees, commonly known as IFYEs. Taff is third from the left in the second row with the travelers on the steamship Georgic, ready to sail from New York. One of the group, Elizabeth Elliott, Kansas, became Assistant Dean and State Leader Home Economics Extension Program, Iowa State University, in 1977.

Paul Taff in England

Back From Europe, P. C. Taff Praises Job Being Done by Our IFYE Delegates

Back at Iowa State College after his 2-month tour of Europe, P. C. Taff is enthusiastic about our young foreign exchangees' tip-top job in giving the folks "over there" a picture of America's people and ways of doing things.

Taff did a lot of traveling in those two months. As group leader of the United States' IFYE delegates, he visited France, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Lebanon, Turkey, Israel, Austria, Yugoslavia, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, England and Scot-

land. In these 14 countries he talked with officials, representatives of youth groups and others interested in the exchange program. He saw Iowa IFYE's Lois Hueneman in Germany and Richard Lomen in Israel, and visited with host families of many other exchangees. In almost every case, the host families didn't want the young people to leave at the end of their assigned stay and asked (often through interpreters) that they be allowed to stay longer.



WEST LONDON NEWS AGENCY
Paul C. Taff, of Iowa State college, 1951 group leader of the International Farm Youth exchange, shown speaking at Hereford, England, at a gathering of U. S. agricultural students now in England. Seated beside Mr. Taff is radio agricultural commentator, Everett Mitchell, who is touring Europe meeting American agricultural students in the countries in which they are staying.

In each of the countries visited I had two assignments:

1. To visit the delegates to make certain they were adjusted and had no problems. Most of them had been in the country from two to four weeks.
2. To visit with proper officials in each country. Some countries did not have delegates assigned to them. If not, I had to explain the program and urge an exchange of delegates in the future.

Our delegates were young men and women, 16-20 years of age, and all but one had had several years of 4-H club membership and experience so they were well equipped to cope with any and all, even strange situations. Each had been assigned to a rural home for two to four weeks and the different situations they met were a revelation to a U.S. youngster. Each visited three or four homes.

I had many unusual conditions to meet, language and otherwise. Though the time I had in each country was short, I did see some of the best sights and got far more than ordinary coverage because I had an official passport, transportation from the embassies in each country and English-speaking guides. My three-day weekend visit to my mother's old home in Saarburg-by-Trier, Germany, was one of the greatest interests and values of my trip. There I met numerous cousins and saw Mother's old home where she was born.

On my return from this assignment, I left London and Southampton on the SS Nelly for the United States. In the late fall when the delegates all returned at the same time and gathered in New York, I went back to New York to meet them and to exchange our many experiences.

The comprehensive report of my summer's activities and recommendations I prepared for the U.S. Department of Agriculture is on file there to be used for future guidance. In several years following I had an opportunity to repay, in part, my sponsors who made the trip possible, by presenting my many slides relating to my observations in foreign countries to more than 200 audiences.

Preparing A History of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, Chicago, Illinois

The task of collecting Iowa and National 4-H club historical records had been mine and I had devoted much effort to it. My interest in the history stems from my long connection with rural youth work which dates back as far or farther than that of any other living person--since 1904. The story would be too long if I tried to describe in detail each of these historical activities and where the records are now assembled but here are explanations of several projects.

By the early 1950s the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, formed officially in 1921, had accomplished much in the way of promoting 4-H clubs, obtaining awards and supporting legislation for national funds. Through its more than 30 years of service its office files collected many valuable

historical records but they were not well organized and might have been lost. Furthermore, the leaders who had had an active role in building 4-H clubs were rapidly disappearing and their personal knowledge of the work of the committee would not be preserved unless someone did something about it.

Director Guy L. Noble and I discussed the matter for several years. Since I was the State Leader who had worked closest with him through the years, he felt I could best put together their historical records. Following these discussions, on April 16, 1953, I signed a formal agreement with the committee to undertake the task. I was retiring on part-time from administration work at Iowa State College and could devote part-time to this project. The arrangement provided that I could do part of the research and collecting of information in the Committee's Chicago office and most of the writing in Ames. I would be allowed travel expenses and some pay for my time.

This plan worked out very well and after several years I had put together nearly 300 pages of manuscript with many charts, tables and illustrations which could be published in a book. Mr. Noble had approved the material and was quite enthusiastic about getting it into print in 1956.

Unfortunately this happened to be the year he was to retire as Director of the Committee. The new administration did not want to proceed without some study of the material and following the study they decided, because of rising costs and other factors, to defer action to a later date and that date has not yet arrived. This was a disappointment to Mr. Noble and to me; Mr. Noble is gone, but it still is a disappointment to me.

The Committee has a copy of the manuscript and has made some use of the information in it from time to time. I hope it may become the basis of a longer history when the years pass along. I have a complete copy of the manuscript in my files, which I hope to pass on for more use, and a copy is on file in the National 4-H Service Committee office in Chicago.

Collecting Club Historical Records in National Club Office in Washington, D. C.

My interest in collecting and preserving all available club records covers many years. Long ago I could see that there was no central source of such records and that much of the early history of how the clubs of today, mainly 4-H clubs, came into being and were developed was scattered and could be lost. This was as true in the National Club office in the USDA as it was in the many states.

Based in part on my interest in the research work I did with Frank Reck for the book, The 4-H Story, I discussed the need for assembling and preserving all available records with the National office on numerous occasions. For a number of years that office could not see that it had the means for doing the task. Finally, in 1961, the federal club staff agreed to have the work done

and asked me to come to Washington for a few weeks to organize and carry through the project. I had the help of retiree Miss Gertrude Warren, a long-time Washington staff member, who had a wide knowledge of the records available and was keenly aware of the need to organize and preserve these records, but her health did not permit her very active participation in the work.

We found that the time I could spend in the National office at that time was not sufficient so I agreed to return in the summer of 1962 to work further on the project. I contributed my time both years but was allowed expenses for travel and living expenses in Washington.

The project involved collecting, from old files in the federal USDA office, all early club records that led to the development of the 4-H club movement. Fortunately, our research uncovered a great number of early pictures, reports and much literature dating from the beginning of this century. We sorted, classified and arranged all this material for binding. The federal office proceeded with the binding, or making ready for binding, of some 20 volumes which are in the Federal Extension office and are often used by researchers and other interested persons. I count this as another interesting and rewarding task.

Work on the National 4-H Foundation Records

Partly because they could see the value of our work on the early club records in the federal office, the officials of the National 4-H Foundation in Washington became interested in having its records collected and organized in the same way for safe keeping. They asked me to go to Washington in March and part of April, 1963, to do this task. Even though the Foundation was a comparatively young organization, established in 1948, some definite, authentic records of its history and its work were difficult to find.

The work involved mainly research in such places as the Foundation office and storage rooms, the records in the USDA offices and the Library of Congress. Now the Foundation has several bound volumes of its history in safe keeping. The Administration agrees that we were fortunate to find its most valuable records before it was too late and that current records must be kept up to date. This project emphasized the importance of keeping records as time moves along. I am glad I had a part in preserving this history because the Foundation is a large and influential part of the entire 4-H movement.

Work on Iowa 4-H Club Records

Our Iowa 4-H club records became my next task of dealing with old club records. The fact that Iowa has a very important place in the records of the earliest clubs, even before the name "4-H Club" was ever suggested, is recorded in Frank Reck's book, The 4-H Story. But very little of Iowa's club history was being collected, documented and preserved in one place.

In 1954 several of us had a hand in putting together a bound collection of the earliest printed items of literature published by the Iowa State College club staff. This material included only printed items and did not include much information and many documents needed to make an accurate record of Iowa's part in what later became the 4-H clubs.

My early activities made me the one person who knew the facts about the club movement in Iowa from the beginning. I was one of Uncle Henry Wallace's Corn Club boys in 1904, almost a decade before the name "4-H" came into common use, and I have had contact with Iowa clubs ever since. Recognizing my many years in club work, the Iowa State Extension staff asked me to undertake the task of gathering all available and authentic club records of Iowa's club activities. I began the first of 1963 and worked on it part time almost three years.

My assignment was to seek out all available records, classify them and put them in shape to be bound by the Iowa State library. I could make up only one complete set of original material because only one copy of most items has been preserved. I found many papers fragile with age and needing special care. But in my research for facts I found several items we did not know existed.

After many hours of work I turned over to the Iowa State library enough material to fill four large volumes. Now bound copies of the history of 4-H club work in Iowa are kept safely in the historical files in the Special Collections department of the Iowa State University library.

EMIGRANT

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John Robert Tate
b. Nov. 6, 1946, Jackson, MS
m. May 17, 1975, Barbara, CA
10 - Jackson Valley
2 Oct. 19, 1977
Poughkeepsie, NY

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m. May 17, 1975, Barbara, CA
10 - Jackson Valley
2 Oct. 19, 1977
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2 Oct. 19, 1977
Poughkeepsie, NY

GENEALOGY (TREE)

CHILDREN

John Mathias
b. Dec. 25, 1977
Henry, IL
d. Nov. 25, 1953

Paul Clifford
b. Feb. 28, 1887
Funks Grove, IL

Henrietta Rose
b. Sept. 19, 1885
Funks Grove, IL

Lillian (Dobbin)
b. July 20, 1892
McLean, IL

All born at Panora, Iowa

d. William Lawrence
b. March 13, 1885

d. Elizabeth Ann (O'Brien)
b. Oct. 10, 1886

d. Alice Gertrude (Taff)
b. Oct. 11, 1888

d. Joseph Leo
b. Dec. 21, 1890

Marie Louise (Tucker)
b. Apr. 10, 1894

d. Michael Glen
b. Apr. 10, 1896

d. Vincent Frederick
b. Feb. 26, 1898

Rozella Bridget (Soreghan)
b. Feb. 23, 1900

d. Francis Emmett
b. Feb. 15, 1902

Grace Veronica (Judge)
b. May 17, 1903

d. Richard Earl
b. Oct. 15, 1904

John Walsh
b. March 25, 1906

Thomas Patrick
b. March 17, 1907

GRANDPARENTS

Father
Alexander Taff
b. Jan. 1, 1857
Oto, IN
d. Feb. 8, 1933
Ames, IA
m. Jan. 1876
Henry, Ill.

Mother
Anna Kaiser Taff
b. Nov. 24, 1855
Saarburg, Germany
d. Jan. 22, 1947
Ames, IA

PARENTS

{ Paul Clifford Taff
b. Feb. 28, 1887
Funks Grove, IL

m. June 18, 1913
Panora, Iowa

Father
James Henry Carberry
b. Apr. 30, 1860
Panora, IA
d. Aug. 18, 1942
Ames, Iowa
m. Nov. 28, 1883
Stuart, IA

{ Alice Gertrude Carberry
b. Oct. 11, 1888
Panora, IA
d. Dec. 6, 1967

Mother
Mary Ann Walsh
b. March 9, 1864
Linnwood, MA
d. Nov. 20, 1938
Ames, IA

KEY

b = born

d = deceased

m = married

PAUL TAFF FAMILY - 1977

CHILDREN

James Alexander
 July 6, 1915
 Ames, IA
 Jan. 5, 1939
 Charlotte, NC
 - Lucille Plocker
 June 23, 1916
 Winnebago, MN

Gene Marie
 June 10, 1918
 Ames, IA
 May 18, 1941
 Ames, IA
 - Albert Boynton Knapp
 Aug. 14, 1918
 Ames, IA
 Sept. 3, 1972
 Hackensack, MN

Regina Elinor (Jeanne)
 Nov. 6, 1919
 Ames, IA
 July 11, 1941
 - Earl Bowman Cutter
 Oct. 22, 1917
 Chicago, IL

GRANDCHILDREN

John Robert Taff
 b. Nov. 8, 1949, Omaha, NB
 m. July 13, 1974, Boulder, CO
 To - Pamela Malloy
 b. Oct. 18, 1941
 Poughkeepsie, NY

Steven James Taff
 b. June 18, 1947, Omaha, NB
 m. Feb. 7, 1976, St. Paul, MN
 To - Susan Hoyt
 b. Nov. 5, 1949, St. Paul, MN

Barbara Lynn Taff
 b. Mar. 18, 1950, Omaha, NB
 m. Aug. 19, 1972, Omaha, NB
 To - John McCaffrey
 b. Jan. 17, 1950, New York, NY

Suzanne Knapp
 b. Nov. 26, 1942, Ames, IA
 m. July 21, 1962, Ames, IA
 d. Dec. 26, 1968
 To - Robert J. Corcoran
 b. Feb. 1, 1940

Charles Boynton Knapp
 b. Aug. 13, 1946, Ames, IA
 m. To - Marcia Lynn Vickers
 b. June 28, 1947, Fairview, OH

Susan Jane Cutter
 b. April 21, 1942
 Alexandria, VA
 m. July 11, 1964
 Dallas, TX
 To - Patrick Joseph Gormely
 b. Oct. 26, 1941
 Niagara Falls, NY

Julie Ann Cutter
 b. May 16, 1947
 Ames, IA

Betsy Jean Cutter
 b. May 2, 1948
 Kansas City, MO
 m. July 14, 1973
 To - Michael Frederick Harvey
 b. June 17, 1947
 Omaha, NB

David Michael Cutter
 b. Aug. 13, 1949
 Kansas City, MO
 m. Nov. 9, 1974
 San Diego, CA
 To - Candice Eileen Murphy
 b. Oct. 4, 1950
 San Diego, CA

Nancy Jane Cutter
 b. March 30, 1955
 Darby, PA

GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

McCaffrey Paul Corcoran
 Feb. 3, 1963
 Ames, IA

Amanda Theresa Knapp
 b. May 18, 1972
 Madison, WI

Diane Christine Gormely
 b. Jan. 29, 1968
 Manhattan, KS

Ellen Elizabeth Gormely
 b. March 20, 1974
 Manhattan, KS

Mark Patrick Gormely
 b. July 30, 1977
 Manhattan, Kansas

Ryan James Cutter
 b. Feb. 22, 1977
 San Diego, CA

Mary Louise

b. July 4, 1921

Ames, IA

m. Dec. 16, 1942

Topeka, KS

To - James Lee Merrick

b. Sept. 17, 1920

Ames, IA

m. July 27, 1973

To - Burton H. Watkins, Jr

b. April 23, 1926

Cedar Rapids, IA

James Lee Merrick, Jr.

b. Sept. 21, 1943

Ames, IA

d. (KIA) Oct. 3, 1968

Gulf of Tonkin, Viet Nam

Mary Catherine Myers

b. Feb. 1947

Ames, IA

m. Aug. 16, 1969

To - Michael Leo Schleich

b. Nov. 10, 1947

Freeport, IL

Patricia Jeanne Myers

b. April 4, 1950

Los Angeles, CA

m. Aug. 1, 1970

To - James Stephen Bares

b. Nov. 2, 1946

Freeport, IL

Margaret Anne Myers

b. Nov. 8, 1954

St. Paul, MN

m. July 12, 1975

To - Clarence Allen Schoenhard

b. Aug. 23, 1955

Freeport, IL

Wendy Ann Bares

b. April 29, 1971

Freeport, IL

Scott Christian Bares

b. July 23, 1973

Freeport, IL

David Paul Bares

b. Feb. 20, 1977

Freeport, IL

Margaret (Marjorie)

b. Oct. 6, 1922

Ames, IA

m. April 27, 1946

To - James David Myers

b. July 10, 1922

Ames, IA

1. 一 (one) 1
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77. 七十七 (seventy-seven) 77
78. 七十八 (seventy-eight) 78
79. 七十九 (seventy-nine) 79
80. 八十 (eighty) 80

81. 八十一 (eighty-one) 81
82. 八十二 (eighty-two) 82
83. 八十三 (eighty-three) 83
84. 八十四 (eighty-four) 84
85. 八十五 (eighty-five) 85
86. 八十六 (eighty-six) 86
87. 八十七 (eighty-seven) 87
88. 八十八 (eighty-eight) 88
89. 八十九 (eighty-nine) 89
90. 九十 (ninety) 90

91. 九十一 (ninety-one) 91
92. 九十二 (ninety-two) 92
93. 九十三 (ninety-three) 93
94. 九十四 (ninety-four) 94
95. 九十五 (ninety-five) 95
96. 九十六 (ninety-six) 96
97. 九十七 (ninety-seven) 97
98. 九十八 (ninety-eight) 98
99. 九十九 (ninety-nine) 99
100. 一百 (one hundred) 100

101. 一百零一 (one hundred and one) 101
102. 一百零二 (one hundred and two) 102
103. 一百零三 (one hundred and three) 103
104. 一百零四 (one hundred and four) 104
105. 一百零五 (one hundred and five) 105
106. 一百零六 (one hundred and six) 106
107. 一百零七 (one hundred and seven) 107
108. 一百零八 (one hundred and eight) 108
109. 一百零九 (one hundred and nine) 109
110. 一百一十 (one hundred and ten) 110

111. 一百一十一 (one hundred and eleven) 111
112. 一百一十二 (one hundred and twelve) 112
113. 一百一十三 (one hundred and thirteen) 113
114. 一百一十四 (one hundred and fourteen) 114
115. 一百一十五 (one hundred and fifteen) 115
116. 一百一十六 (one hundred and sixteen) 116
117. 一百一十七 (one hundred and seventeen) 117
118. 一百一十八 (one hundred and eighteen) 118
119. 一百一十九 (one hundred and nineteen) 119
120. 一百二十 (one hundred and twenty) 120

121. 一百二十一 (one hundred and twenty-one) 121
122. 一百二十二 (one hundred and twenty-two) 122
123. 一百二十三 (one hundred and twenty-three) 123
124. 一百二十四 (one hundred and twenty-four) 124
125. 一百二十五 (one hundred and twenty-five) 125
126. 一百二十六 (one hundred and twenty-six) 126
127. 一百二十七 (one hundred and twenty-seven) 127
128. 一百二十八 (one hundred and twenty-eight) 128
129. 一百二十九 (one hundred and twenty-nine) 129
130. 一百三十 (one hundred and thirty) 130

131. 一百三十一 (one hundred and thirty-one) 131
132. 一百三十二 (one hundred and thirty-two) 132
133. 一百三十三 (one hundred and thirty-three) 133
134. 一百三十四 (one hundred and thirty-four) 134
135. 一百三十五 (one hundred and thirty-five) 135
136. 一百三十六 (one hundred and thirty-six) 136
137. 一百三十七 (one hundred and thirty-seven) 137
138. 一百三十八 (one hundred and thirty-eight) 138
139. 一百三十九 (one hundred and thirty-nine) 139
140. 一百四十 (one hundred and forty) 140

141. 一百四十一 (one hundred and forty-one) 141
142. 一百四十二 (one hundred and forty-two) 142
143. 一百四十三 (one hundred and forty-three) 143
144. 一百四十四 (one hundred and forty-four) 144
145. 一百四十五 (one hundred and forty-five) 145
146. 一百四十六 (one hundred and forty-six) 146
147. 一百四十七 (one hundred and forty-seven) 147
148. 一百四十八 (one hundred and forty-eight) 148
149. 一百四十九 (one hundred and forty-nine) 149
150. 一百五十 (one hundred and fifty) 150

151. 一百五十一 (one hundred and fifty-one) 151
152. 一百五十二 (one hundred and fifty-two) 152
153. 一百五十三 (one hundred and fifty-three) 153
154. 一百五十四 (one hundred and fifty-four) 154
155. 一百五十五 (one hundred and fifty-five) 155
156. 一百五十六 (one hundred and fifty-six) 156
157. 一百五十七 (one hundred and fifty-seven) 157
158. 一百五十八 (one hundred and fifty-eight) 158
159. 一百五十九 (one hundred and fifty-nine) 159
160. 一百六十 (one hundred and sixty) 160

161. 一百六十一 (one hundred and sixty-one) 161
162. 一百六十二 (one hundred and sixty-two) 162
163. 一百六十三 (one hundred and sixty-three) 163
164. 一百六十四 (one hundred and sixty-four) 164
165. 一百六十五 (one hundred and sixty-five) 165
166. 一百六十六 (one hundred and sixty-six) 166
167. 一百六十七 (one hundred and sixty-seven) 167
168. 一百六十八 (one hundred and sixty-eight) 168
169. 一百六十九 (one hundred and sixty-nine) 169
170. 一百七十 (one hundred and seventy) 170

171. 一百七十一 (one hundred and seventy-one) 171
172. 一百七十二 (one hundred and seventy-two) 172
173. 一百七十三 (one hundred and seventy-three) 173
174. 一百七十四 (one hundred and seventy-four) 174
175. 一百七十五 (one hundred and seventy-five) 175
176. 一百七十六 (one hundred and seventy-six) 176
177. 一百七十七 (one hundred and seventy-seven) 177
178. 一百七十八 (one hundred and seventy-eight) 178
179. 一百七十九 (one hundred and seventy-nine) 179
180. 一百八十 (one hundred and eighty) 180

181. 一百八十一 (one hundred and eighty-one) 181
182. 一百八十二 (one hundred and eighty-two) 182
183. 一百八十三 (one hundred and eighty-three) 183
184. 一百八十四 (one hundred and eighty-four) 184
185. 一百八十五 (one hundred and eighty-five) 185
186. 一百八十六 (one hundred and eighty-six) 186
187. 一百八十七 (one hundred and eighty-seven) 187
188. 一百八十八 (one hundred and eighty-eight) 188
189. 一百八十九 (one hundred and eighty-nine) 189
190. 一百九十 (one hundred and ninety) 190

191. 一百九十一 (one hundred and ninety-one) 191
192. 一百九十二 (one hundred and ninety-two) 192
193. 一百九十三 (one hundred and ninety-three) 193
194. 一百九十四 (one hundred and ninety-four) 194
195. 一百九十五 (one hundred and ninety-five) 195
196. 一百九十六 (one hundred and ninety-six) 196
197. 一百九十七 (one hundred and ninety-seven) 197
198. 一百九十八 (one hundred and ninety-eight) 198
199. 一百九十九 (one hundred and ninety-nine) 199
200. 二百 (two hundred) 200

CHAPTER III

MORE FAMILY HISTORY

III

MORE FAMILY HISTORY

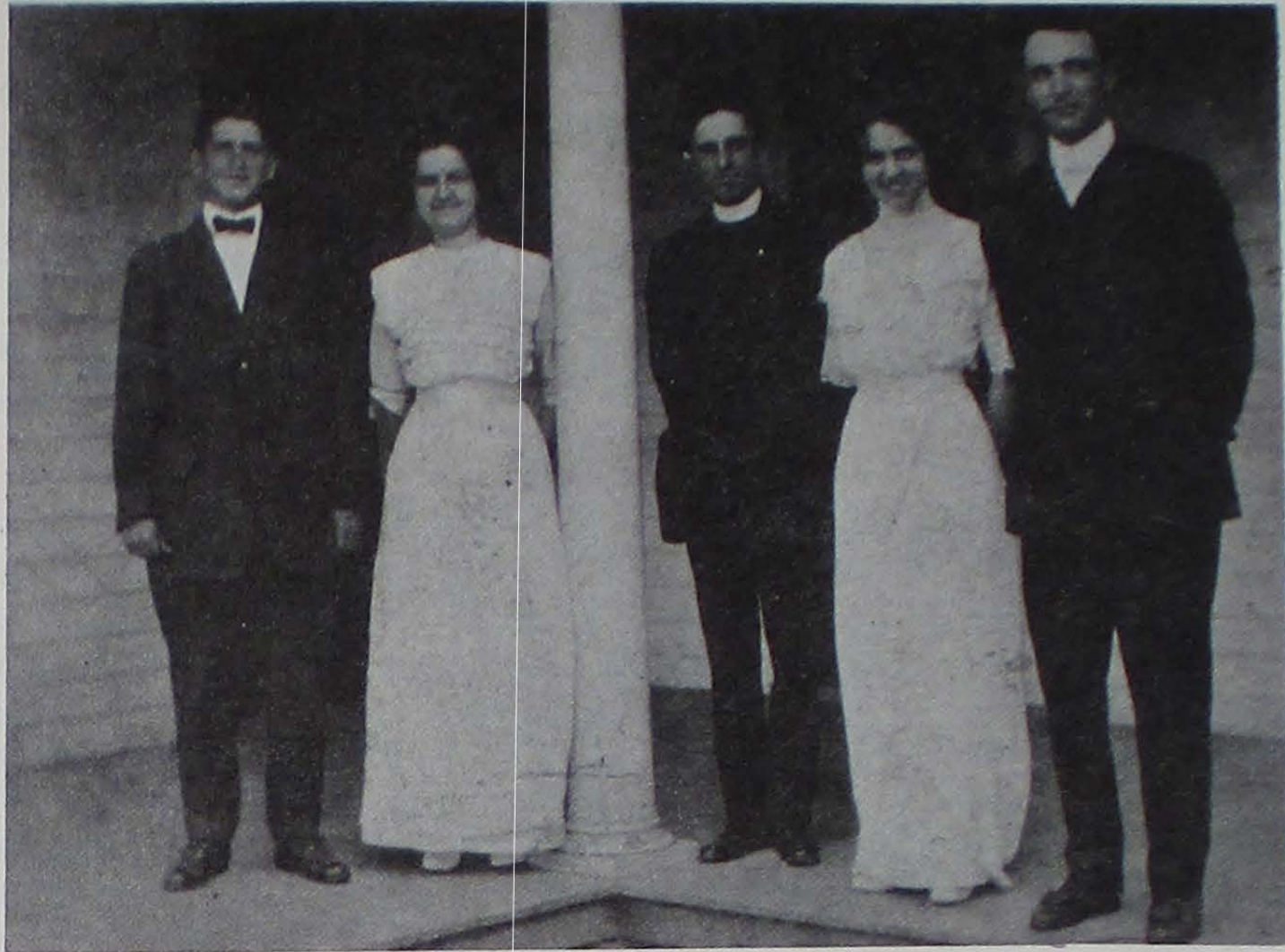
While this collection of reminiscences is mainly designed to be a story of Taff's life activities, he also wants it to be in part a record of his immediate and helpful family. First, this will be done by placing a genealogy of his own and his wife's family separately in this record. To this will be added other interesting personal touches.

During the time we lived on the Moore farm north of Panora (1900-1907) we attended the Catholic Church in Guthrie Center. (One was built in nearby Panora in 1907.) There usually was Mass only once a month in Guthrie Center and it was a 13-mile drive for us to get to it, always by wagon, surrey or bobsled over unimproved roads--muddy or dusty in summer and snow and frozen ruts in winter. But largely at the urging and help of Mother and Father (he was not a Catholic then but became a convert in later years), we attended church quite regularly. Many other rural families did the same and the church service was an opportunity to become acquainted with people who were not our near neighbors. Sometimes after Mass we spread our lunch in groups in the church yard, or in the church if weather was bad, before starting the long drive home.

Sometime, in this setting the Taff family became acquainted with the James Carberry family from south of Panora and I, in particular, with their second eldest daughter Gertrude. We also met at other events such as country dances. Anyway, we began "going together" quite regularly about 1904, though she lived five miles south of town and I, almost as far north of Panora. Bad roads and bad weather often made it difficult to travel to see her by horse and buggy or later a team and buggy. Many other times we arranged to get together at special events in Panora or later in Ames. Romance, if it can be called that, continued until Gertrude and I were married in the Panora St. Mary's Catholic Church on June 18, 1913 by Father T. P. Murphy, the pastor. Gertrude and her sister Elizabeth both had attended St. Joseph Academy in Des Moines two years previously. Prior to our marriage Gertrude worked a period as a clerk in Burricheter's drugstore in Panora and she often referred to this as her only claim as a career girl.

Following our wedding at the church and a family breakfast at Gertrude's Aunt Nancy Healy's home in Panora, we were driven by car to Perry where we took the train for Denver, Colorado, and then to Colorado Springs. We rented a small cottage there for two weeks on the mountainside where we spent our honeymoon. This enabled us to take many scenic side trips, most memorable of which I recall was our attempt to walk up Pike's Peak, which resulted in failure at the half-way house. We ate the lunch we carried to there, then found the walk down more uncomfortable than the walk up the mountainside trail.

I had finished college a year earlier and had a full-time appointment on the Extension staff at Iowa State College so we felt we could start a home. After our honeymoon, we came back to Ames and to a newly-built cottage on Sixth Street, at about the site of the present Ames Post Office parking lot. We had rented this for \$125 per month and we started housekeeping there on July 1, 1913, with a full set of furniture for the four-room house. (I still have the list of items, the price of each and the bill of sale from Davidson's in Des Moines.) We lived in this house (James Taff was born there) until we moved to 313 North Russell Avenue,



Gertrude Carberry and Paul Taff, were married June 18, 1913 at the St. Mary's Catholic church in Panora. From left: William Carberry, brother of the bride, best man; Elizabeth Carberry, sister of the bride, maid of honor; Father T. P. Murphy; Gertrude Carberry, bride; and Paul Taff, bridegroom.



And fifty years later, here is the Taff family. From left, front row: Regina (Jean) Taff Cutter, Paul Taff, Gertrude Taff. Back row: James Taff, Mary Taff Watkins, Anna Marie Taff Knapp, Marjorie Taff Myers.



The Paul Taff family at home, 313 North Russell Avenue, Ames, 1930. From left: Regina (Jean), Paul, Anna Marie, Marjorie, James, Mary, Gertrude.



Iowa delegation at the National 4H Club Camp in Washington, D. C., 1928. From left: Josephine Arnquist, State Girls' Club Leader; Esther Everett, Mahaska County; Raymond Sorensen, Cerro Gordo County; Ina Fae Paul, Muscatine County; Everett Saylor, Decatur County; Paul C. Taff, Iowa 4H Club Leader.



Paul and Gertrude Taff with their grandchildren and one great-grandchild at their 50th wedding anniversary celebration in 1963. From left, front row: Margaret Myers (Schoenhard), Nancy Cutter. Second row: Mary Catherine Myers (Schleich), Suzanne Knapp (Corcoran), holding her son Jeffrey Paul, Betsy Cutter (Harvey), Barbara Taff (McCaffrey), Patricia Myers (Bares), David Cutter. Third row: Susan Cutter (Gormely), Paul C. Taff, Gertrude C. Taff, Julie Cutter, John Taff. Back row: Charles Knapp, James Merrick, Steven Taff.



Memorial gifts from relatives and friends provided the funds for the new type emergency room bed Paul Taff gave to Mary Greeley Hospital, Ames, in memory of his wife, Gertrude. From left: Dr. William R. Bliss, Chief of Staff, Mary Greeley Hospital; Paul Taff; and Mrs. Shirley Sondrol, Director of Nursing.

Alumni Merit Award

Know all men by these presents



That in recognition of pre-eminent service
in advancing human welfare

The Iowa State Club of Chicago of
Iowa State University

confers on

Paul C. Taff

The Alumni Merit Award

Ames, Iowa, June 9, 1973

Robert A. ...
Chairman, Alumni Merit Award Committee

Paul Hunter
President, Iowa State Club of Chicago

Bruce T. ...
President, Iowa State Alumni Association

William Robert Parks
President, Iowa State University

Ames man honored for work in 4-H

WASHINGTON (UPI) —A longtime Iowa 4-H leader Friday was among 12 persons honored at the annual Friends of 4-H Banquet to climax the organization's conference here.

Paul C. Taff of Ames was honored as one of eight "Partners in 4-H". The awards were made to individuals who have made a significant contribution to 4-H in the United States.

Taff started his career as a student at Iowa State University in 1904 and was promoted in 1916 to assistant director of the extension service, a position he held until 1952. He also served as state 4-H leader for all but two of those 36 years.

After retirement, Taff continued his work in 4-H and assumed the task of assembling historical 4-H records on both the state and national levels and in the U. S. Agriculture Department.

Last year, he was honored at the 50th Anniversary National 4-H Congress as the only person who had attended all 50 sessions of the congress.



PAUL TAFF



Iowa State University President, Robert Parks, presented the Iowa 4H Foundation plaque, Partner in 4H, to Paul Taff in 1972.

in 1915, to a new house rented from Mrs. George White, who also had built our first cottage. In 1923 we purchased this home and lived there until we sold it in September 1935 for another new home on Greenbriar Circle in Ames.

Several incidents worthy of mention happened in the two years we lived on Sixth Street in Ames. We bought our first car in 1914, a four-cylinder Haynes, four-passenger touring model, folding top and four speeds forward. It proved to be a very satisfactory car. I cannot recall our gas mileage; we had cheaper gas then, but tires and upkeep were expensive. We enjoyed the many trips it provided, especially to and from our old homes near Panora and pleasure driving with friends.

In 1916 we decided to dispose of the Haynes so we sold it back to the Des Moines dealer from whom we purchased it. Immediately afterwards we purchased a secondhand Model T Ford from Ed Carberry (a relative of Gertrude's) at Panora, one which had to be hand cranked. This experience with Fords led us through several more of them, and to larger cars after World War I, mostly to a long line of Oldsmobiles.

Also during our stay in the two-bedroom cottage on Sixth Street we were able to have my sister Lillian live with us while attending Iowa State College for several terms. Likewise, later Gertrude's brother, Glen Carberry, stayed with us for a term he was in Ames High School and until he received an appointment to West Point Military Academy, then went into active military service soon afterwards.

In 1913 and later the entire block between Fifth and Sixth Streets west of Kellogg in Ames was covered with private homes only. Now that area is fully occupied with the Post Office and commercial buildings.

In our resident locations we became acquainted and associated with many who became longtime neighbors and friends--the R. K. Blisses, Murl McDonalds, Henry Eichlings, E. L. Quaifes, Rex Beresfords, Bob Herricks, Dr. K. W. Stouders, Henry Gieses, C. V. Holsingers, Tom Rouglases, Harry Bittenbenders, John Quists, Harry Nichols, C. A. Iversons, Frank Manns, the Thompsons and many others. Since our children all grew up with theirs, they formed many lasting friendships. In 1954, after 38 years living on Russell Avenue, we had a new home built at Greenbriar Circle south of the ISU campus in Ames.

Our children (except James who was born on Sixth Street) were born while we lived on Russell Avenue. All went to the parochial and grade schools and all graduated from Ames High School. All attended Iowa State College and received degrees there. This is their high school, college record, graduation date and degree received.

Names	Ames High School	Iowa State College	Degree
James Alexander	1933	1937	B.S., Industrial Economics
Ann Marie	1936	1940	B.S., Applied Art - Home Economics
Regina Elinor (Jeanne)	1937	1941	B.S., Child Development - Home Economics
Mary Louise	1939	1943	B.S., Household Equipment - Home Economics
Margaret (Marjorie)	1941	1944	B.S., Institutional Management - Home Economics

Space does not permit us to list the record of the above children, but all married and became active with their families. The genealogy placed elsewhere in this history will give dates of births, marriages, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in our family to date.

The new house south of the campus at 2021 Greenbriar Circle also provided a long satisfying experience. It came after our family members were married - children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren came on the scene, and it made a convenient gathering place many times for all concerned. The house with three bedrooms and a finished recreation and sleeping room in the basement gave us ample facilities. Also the spacious yard and garden, planned and sketched by Extension Landscape Architect John Fitzsimmons, was developed by us almost exactly as he planned. We have kept this plan available and it was often used for reference.

While we lived in the above house 1954-1976 many incidents occurred. In 1952, I had reached the ISU retirement age of 65 for administrators. Thus I had to relinquish my titles of Assistant State Extension Director and State Club 4-H Leader. However, a college rule then allowed us to continue on three-fourths time in other capacities for another five years, and then on hourly basis when needed. In these situations a partly retired person can be provided office space and secretarial and clerical help, which I am appreciating to this date. Recently I was given the honorary title of Professor Emeritus at Iowa State University.

One great tragedy occurred during this period - My devoted wife Gertrude passed away on December 6, 1967 in Mary Greeley Hospital in Ames, and she is buried in the Ames Municipal Cemetery. She had enjoyed good health for many years but the dragon cancer struck her. Fortunately, she suffered with it only a relatively short time and died peacefully. It is difficult for me to put in words what her loss meant to me. After being the mainstay in raising a fine family, with me being away so frequently, she did her tasks cheerfully and well. We had been married 54 years and her companionship left a great feeling of loss, and adjustment for me. Now in a few words, I can do no better than wish - "May her soul always rest in peace."

Much more could be written about our family activities, but since so many are included in reports previously written, am leaving these to suffice.

Our War Activities

Since our children were all born in a pre-war or war period, or in a period immediately following, some record should be made of our activities in World War I and World War II. At the time of World War I, I was classified 2A, not immediately subject to the draft, because of my family of young children and my engagement in many vital public war food production and conservation staff projects at the College. But the war touched our whole family - in our home as in other homes it was a time of intense stress, food clothing and gasoline were scarce. In WWI, a bad flu epidemic had developed in 1918 with the civilian and military groups then located at the college, causing many fatalities.

(In World War II our son James and all my four sons-in-law entered the Service. Our home on Russell became the temporary home for military widows and our attic for their household equipment storage.)

Obviously for myself, it would have been difficult for my large family if I

enlisted in Service as a private soldier. About the time of this decision in the summer of 1945, I found that the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army was setting up a center at old Fort Des Moines for training discharged men. The setup included over 400 acres of farm land, farm buildings and considerable livestock and equipment. It was considered to be a setting for semi-able men coming out of Service to train for agricultural pursuits.

I am not just sure how the Army heard about midsummer of 1945, that I, with an agricultural background, might be available to join the Medical Corps, and that I would be able to take over an assignment as director of this phase of the veterans' agricultural program at Fort Des Moines. (None of the officers there at that time had much knowledge of agriculture.) The situation looked favorable since I would be located near Ames and I would be in Service. The Commanding Officer, a Major Monahan, recommended me for a commission as First Lieutenant to take full charge of a Veterans' agricultural training program at Ft. Des Moines. Although it appeared a difficult assignment, I accepted and started working there while waiting for the commission to come through.

In the late fall, 1945, all military movements were slowing to almost a standstill and I found it almost impossible to get even a purchase order for small items such as feed for the livestock, so it was a problem to keep the place operating. Also the number of men assigned to the camp for training was less than expected. All of us working there had the same idea that our program should be a part of the therapy, training and education for the men. They would attend some classes in agriculture, the practical training would prepare them to become farm hands capable of taking care of all jobs on several hundred acres of land and with considerable livestock. We hoped many would be better qualified to get farm jobs when they were released from Service.

While waiting for the commission to be approved, I took over for several weeks as a civilian, doing the work I was scheduled to do later. I drove back and forth from Ames and was given a small allowance for travel, but I could not be given a salary until I was actually in Service. All of this time it was becoming more and more difficult to set up and organize definite programs because everyone felt the end of the war was close at hand, making altogether a questionable outlook. But we continued to plan and I took all required physical examinations and passed them, checked on uniforms and was assigned an office at Ft. Des Moines.

Finally, on October 30, 1945, Major Monahan received official notice that no more commissions would be granted. This was a great disappointment to me and I am certain to the Major, too, for he felt I was to take a big load off him by handling the farm enterprise of the Camp and for the men's training. As a volunteer I continued to give him considerable assistance for a few more weeks. A little later I was notified that I would be eligible for a commission in the Medical Corps reserves. I did not accept since this would have committed me to considerable annual training and subject to a call for any kind of duty at any place and time, which might have been a handicap to my appointment on the staff at Iowa State College.

My Church-Related Activities

I was baptized in the Catholic faith at the village of Funks Grove, Illinois, in 1887. Our families have been members of the Catholic Churches in the various places where we have lived. These included St. Cecilia Church at Algona 1895-1900,



Loras College, Dubuque, awarded Paul Taff an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in 1949. From left: Monsignor Martin Cone, Vicar General, Davenport; His Excellency Archbishop Henry Rohlfman, Dubuque; Paul C. Taff; and the Most Reverend Joseph M. Meuller, Bishop of Sioux City Diocese.

Collegium Loras



Omnibus has Litteras Inspecturis

Salutem in Domino

Nos, Cancellarius et Praeses Collegii Lorani,

Consentientibus Inspectoribus,

Honorabilem Paulum C. Taff

ad gradum

Legum Doctoris

admisimus, eique

dedimus et concessimus omnia insignia et jura ad hunc honorem spectantia.

*In cujus rei testimonium litteris hisce, Collegii sigillo munitis,
nomina subscripsimus.*

Datum Dubuquense, Iowa, die quinta mensis Junii anno domini MCMIL

Henricus P. Rohlfman
CANCELLARIUS

Robert C. Barrett
CURATOR ANNUALII



In 1951 Paul Taff was granted an audience with Pope Pius XII at his summer palace, Castel del Gandolfo, about 12 miles south of Rome.

Page Eight

Dr. Paul C. Taff Tells of 4-H Clubs In Audience With Pope Pius

Dr. Paul C. Taff, assistant director of extension service and rural youth leader, Iowa State college, who during the summer months is conducting the International Farm Youth Exchange project on a visitation of agricultural centers in Europe and the Middle East, was accorded an audience with Pope Pius XII late in July, according to a letter just received by his family at 313 North Russell avenue.

"On the day of the audience", wrote Dr. Taff, "we were ushered into the presence of the Pontiff by the colorful Swiss Guards. We made a gesture of kneeling, but the Pope motioned us at once to rise, extended his ring, and shook hands with each visitor.

Inasmuch as he speaks six modern languages fluently, he addressed each person in the



DR. PAUL C. TAFF
visitor's own tongue. When it came my turn, I explained that I represented a rural youth organization and the 4-H clubs of Iowa. For both them and me the Holy Father asked a special blessing and

then remarked, 'I am very happy that so many people from America have come to see me.'

While we posed for a picture with him, the Pope laughingly remarked, 'We all like to have our picture taken, and, of course, the photographer always wants a second one'. After the 'snaps' had been taken, I had another short visit with the Pontiff."

Dr. Taff was greatly impressed by the friendly and gracious manner in which the Pope received his visitors. "Despite his age and the heavy exactions of his office, Pope Pius looks well and vigorous. He had a smile of welcome for every one, and was just as kind to the last callers as to the first", concluded Dr. Taff's letter.

On the day following the audience, Dr. Taff attended Mass at St. Peter's Basilica and was later taken on a tour of Rome, Vatican City, and nearby villages.

Pope Paul VI appointed Paul Taff a Knight of St. Gregory the Great of the civil class in 1968 for his contribution to the welfare and growth of the Catholic Church.

THE AWARD
of
THE KNIGHT OF ST. GREGORY THE GREAT
to
DR. PAUL C. TAFF

THE DOCUMENT FROM ROME STATES:

Paul VI, the Supreme Pontiff, freely conceding to requests submitted to us, from which we learn that you are well deserving by reason of your contribution to the welfare and growth of the Catholic Church, we promulgate this declaration as evidence of our intention that you PAUL C. TAFF OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE, are a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great of the civil class, and we grant you the faculties to use all the privileges which accompany this honor. Given at St. Peters in Rome, the 21st Day of March, 1968.

(Signed)
H. J. Cardinal Cicognani
Secretary of State
to His Holiness

* * * * *

ORDER OF ST. GREGORY THE GREAT:

First established by Pope Gregory XVI in 1831 to honor citizens of the Papal States, the order is conferred on persons who are distinguished for personal character and reputation, and for notable accomplishment. The order has civil and military divisions, and three classes of knights.

Honor of St. Gregory conferred on Ames man

Paul C. Taff, 2021 Greenbriar Circle, has been named a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great of the civil class.

Knighthood was conferred by Pope Paul VI March 21 at St. Peter's in Rome. The investiture ceremony, to be in Des Moines Wednesday, will be conducted by the Most Rev. Henry J. Soeneker, D.D., president of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Taff was conferred the honor for "his contribution to the welfare and growth of the Catholic Church."

Taff, a 1912 graduate of Iowa State University, was active as a student in Catholic church activities. He became a member of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference in 1924 and has served as a member of the executive committee and the board of directors. He has been vice president for youth since 1958. In 1962 he received the Distinguished Service Award of the Conference.

He was employed in agricultural extension at Iowa State



PAUL C. TAFF

University from 1906 until 1952 and is now semi-retired. He has served on the Ames City Recreation Commission since it was organized in 1938 and was chairman of the commission for 12 years.

Clipping from the Ames Daily Tribune
published at the time of the award.

and in St. Peters in Guthrie Center and St. Cecilia Church in Panora, Iowa, 1900-1907; in Ames at St. Cecilia Church, 1907-1954; and St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Ames, 1954 to date (1977): I received Sacrament of Confirmation at Stuart, Iowa in 1902 along with my sister Henrietta.

In 1912 I was initiated in the Knights of Columbus Council at Boone, Iowa, and was a member there until our Ames K. of C. Council was established in 1926, when I transferred to it. When my membership had totaled fifty years (in 1962), I was given the title of Honorary Member. I held numerous offices, including Deputy Grand Knight two years. In 1926, I received the 4th degree in Knights of Columbus Council at Des Moines, Iowa.

My most and longest work with Catholic laymen organizations was with the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, with headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa. It was largely sponsored by Msgr. L. G. Ligutti, who became famous for his energetic support of rural life. He was located in the Vatican in Rome as the Rural Director of NCRLC. Records show I was connected in some way through many years, such as being on the Board of Directors, in charge of their youth programs as early as 1924, and in 1957 was instrumental in establishing the well-known and successful God-Home-Country Award program to honor the country's rural youth for good work in farm, home, church and community activities. Many hundreds of these have been granted through the years. From 1958 to 1972, my title was Vice President of HCRLC. I attended their numerous annual meetings and conferences over the country and took part in many programs. As a service to the Conference over the years, in 1956-1960 I undertook the task of sorting and classifying a mass of accumulated literature in the headquarters of NCRLC in Des Moines, some stored haphazardly there and some in an adjoining building. That which it was decided should be kept for future records is now in file cases in the central office.

One interesting event for me took place in 1951 while I was in Italy: Through Msgr. Ligutti an arrangement was made for me to join in an audience with Pope Pius XII. This was held at his summer home at Castel De Gondolfo. While I did not get shown very clearly in the picture due to the large number of visitors the same day, afterwards I did get to personally speak with the Pope and when I told him I was connected with the 4-H Clubs in America, he quickly replied, "Yes, I know about the 4-H Clubs - they are doing a great work." I value my opportunity to meet the Holy father very highly.

In 1968, I received another high honor from Pope Paul VI when he made me a "Knight of the Order of St. Gregory, the Great," the certificate for which I hope can be reproduced in this story. This is so rarely given to laymen that it is naturally recognized as a very high honor in church lay circles. This honor gave me several privileges at high church events, such as wearing the papal medallion which I have, and the uniform and being seated in the sacristy, but seldom will I have the opportunity to take part in these ways.

During 1947-48, I was asked to direct a course, at Loras College, Dubuque, in rural life for pre-seminarians. This was considered necessary since more than three-fourths of the forty-five men who took this course were from large cities - yet virtually all eventually would be assigned to rural parishes as priests when they were ordained. I called upon some of my co-workers to give a part of the sixteen lessons and demonstrations. We considered this venture to be very successful and valuable.

Office of the Governor

STATE CAPITOL
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

November 23, 1971

Mr. Paul Taff
2021 Green Briar Circle
Ames, Iowa

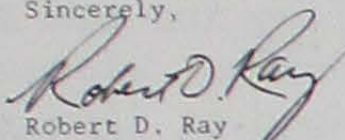
Dear Mr. Taff:

It has come to my attention that you will be singled out for a unique honor at the 50th Anniversary National 4-H Congress in Chicago next week and I wanted to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to you.

Over the last half century, you have worked with the young people of this state and have made an immeasurable contribution to the betterment of the very worthwhile programs of the Extension Service and the 4-H movement.

You can take pride in this recognition and on behalf of Iowans I express to you my sincere appreciation. Best wishes.

Sincerely,


Robert D. Ray
Governor

RDR/jn

Interoffice Communication

DATE May 2, 1972
TO Mr. Paul TaffFROM W. Robert Parks *WRP*

This is just a note to let you know how pleased I was to learn of your recent designation as one of eight "Partners in 4-H." This is surely a fitting tribute to a man whose career has been as productive and eventful as yours. All of us at Iowa State are proud of you, Paul, and of the achievements which have brought you national recognition.

WRP:jvp

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
of Science and Technology

Partner-In-4-H Citation

to

Paul C. Taff

Retired State 4-H Leader and Assistant Director of Extension
Iowa State University

For his continued enthusiastic service to the 4-H program at the national level since his retirement in 1952.

He is the only person to have attended each of the 50 National 4-H Congresses; 19 of these being after his active service. For the past many years, he has been in charge of the health unit at the Congress. He is also credited with the authorship of numerous publications on 4-H. He was chairman of the 4-H history committee which produced The 4-H Story by Frank M. Reck, and most recently he co-authored the National 4-H Service Committee's 50-year history--"From Dream to Reality." His dedication to rural development is further demonstrated by his leadership in the National Catholic Rural Life Conference for many years.

Presented by

THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

April 28, 1972

at

Washington, D.C.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Ames, Iowa 50010

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

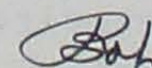
April 20, 1974

Mr. Paul C. Taff
2021 Greenbriar Circle
Ames, Iowa 50010

Dear Paul:

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to recognize your meritorious service as a faculty member by formally designating you as "Professor Emeritus" of Iowa State University, effective July 1, 1974. This action was recommended by a committee of deans upon your separation from the University, and it is an action I am happy to formalize. On behalf of Iowa State, it is my great personal pleasure to extend to you this recognition and honorary designation.

Sincerely yours,


W. Robert Parks
President

WRP:jvp

cc: Dean Marvin Anderson

In June of 1948 (partly due, I am certain, to the friends I made at Loras in the above course) I was asked to give the Commencement Address at the 1949 Loras College Graduation Day at Christ King Chapel on the Campus. At the banquet following, the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon me by the College President. This distinctive title I have carried with much pride ever since.

During the Annual National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Amarillo, Texas, in 1962 I was named for the NCRLC "Distinguished Award" for 1962, and was given an appropriate plaque by Bishop Joseph Marling, Jefferson City, Missouri, then President of the Conference.

I am also a member of the John Neuman Society of America. Recently St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Club honored me by an award as the longest-time member of the club, which dated back to my college days.

Family and Personal Activities

It can be truly said, the Taffs are an active family. We have lived most of our lives in the town of Ames, Iowa, where there was an abundance of opportunity to take part in almost every professional and community activity known at the time.

For a concise record of the Taff's residences, many mentioned heretofore, here is a concise list:

1887 - 1892	Jacob Funk farm, Funks Grove, Illinois
1892 - 1894	Kenyon farm, between Atlanta and McLean, Illinois
1894 - 1895	Culbertson farm, near Panora
1895 - 1900	Bode farm, northeast of Algona, Iowa
1900 - 1907	Horace Moore farm near Panora, Iowa
1907 - 1913	At Colonial Clubhouse, Ames, Iowa
1913 - 1915	313 Sixth Street, Ames, Iowa
1915 - 1954	313 Russell Avenue, Ames, Iowa
1954 - 1975	2021 Greenbriar Circle, Ames, Iowa
1976 - to date	111 Lynn, University Towers

In listing the above, in 1910 the Colonial Club members built a new brick house at 217 Ash Avenue, and I moved there until Gertrude and I were married and started our first home July 1913 as mentioned earlier. The Colonial House became the Theta Delta Chi, a national social fraternity, in 1919, and I was made a graduate member.

A brief rundown of our principal diversions or hobbies are listed here:

Recreation - We joined the Ames Country Club in 1916, and played frequently every year since. The family had the advantage of all sorts of school, college and city sports, some as participants and others as onlookers. Fishing was one of my favorite sports. I began making fishing trips to Iowa lakes and to Minnesota, Wisconsin, Florida and Arkansas as early as the 20s, and have followed this sport since.

Gardening - It was our good fortune at our homes to have had ample space for gardens. Part of the urge for these came from the desire and need to produce food for a sizable family, but also it was effective relaxation and exercise project. With ample yard space also we were able to grow an abundance of flowers and vegetables.

Travel - Of all our hobbies, travel has been the most consistent one. When Gertrude was living, almost every winter we made trips to Florida (a couple of times to southern Texas instead). In my own active work in Extension I had to travel nearly 20,000 miles a year, some of it outside Iowa. Summer trips were made with the growing family to resorts in Iowa and nearby states. Also we visited both Canada and Mexico twice.

In the last few years I have made these winter trips:

- 1969 - Cruise trip to South America - to Jamaica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador (Peru cancelled)
- 1970 - Cruise to Orient - Hawaii, Philippines, Japan, Free China, Taiwan
- 1971 - By air to South Pacific - Tahiti, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji
- 1972 - By air to Africa, South Africa, Rhodesia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda

Cards - We belonged to several bridge-playing groups in Ames.

Reading - It was our policy to have available for our family ample reading material. Consequently, we subscribed to large numbers of newspapers, news and farm magazines, as well to books. With good city and college library there was never a lack of good literature at hand, and later of course, radio and television took place of some of these.

Entertainment and Educational Resources - Living in Ames there have been unusual opportunities in this city and its college and university community. Thus we had available some of world's best in music, opera, lectures and plays. Our family always took advantage frequently of these opportunities.

Community Activities

(In addition to those mentioned in previous sections)

Charter Member - Ames City Playground Commission, appointed by Mayor William Allen, 1937. Member, and several years chairman, for 30 years until 1968.

During WW I and WW II, was appointed to several committees such as U.S.O. to help the hundreds of incoming soldiers, coming in and out of Ames, where there was an induction military training camp.

Member of Ames Country Club and on Board of Trustees five years.

Member, Ames Lions Club, 1924-1929, President of Club in 1923.

Member, Ames Rotary Club since 1933. President, Ames Club - 1935-1936, and delegate to a National Convention in Atlantic City, N.J.

Honors and Awards

1. Member 25-Year ISU Club, 1937 (and since)
2. Member National Dairy Shrine Club since 1953
3. Honorary member Iowa Crop Improvement Association, 1970
4. Honorary member John Newman Society
5. Awarded plaque at 50th Anniversary of National 4-H Service Committee, Chicago, 1971 (having attended all fifty (50) of its annual Congresses.
6. Member and Treasurer of Iowa Corn Growers Association, 1908 - 1920.

7. judged at Iowa State Fair in Agricultural Department, 1916 - 1972.
8. Forty-five (45)-Year Service Award, U.S. Department of Agriculture.
9. Distinguished Service Award by National Catholic Rural Life Convention, Amarillo, Texas, 1962.
10. Made Honorary Member of Iowa Boys 4-H Club, and same for Iowa Girls 4-H Club.
11. Made "Partner in 4-H" (Honorary) by Cooperative Extension Service, USDA, in Washington, D.C., 1972.
12. Alumni Merit Award 1973, by Iowa State Alumni Association.
13. Member of honor societies - Alpha Zeta (agricultural) and Delta Zigma Rho (forensic).

THE END

To end this story it may not be amiss to note that one of the author's lifetime goals was concerned with people. This was accomplished through his activities within organizations, groups and in all other types of contacts. A review would show the many thousands of people contacted and helped through his career.

